WALT DISNEY

8

LIRE 4300
EURO 2,22*

PK²

SOLTANTO UN AMICO

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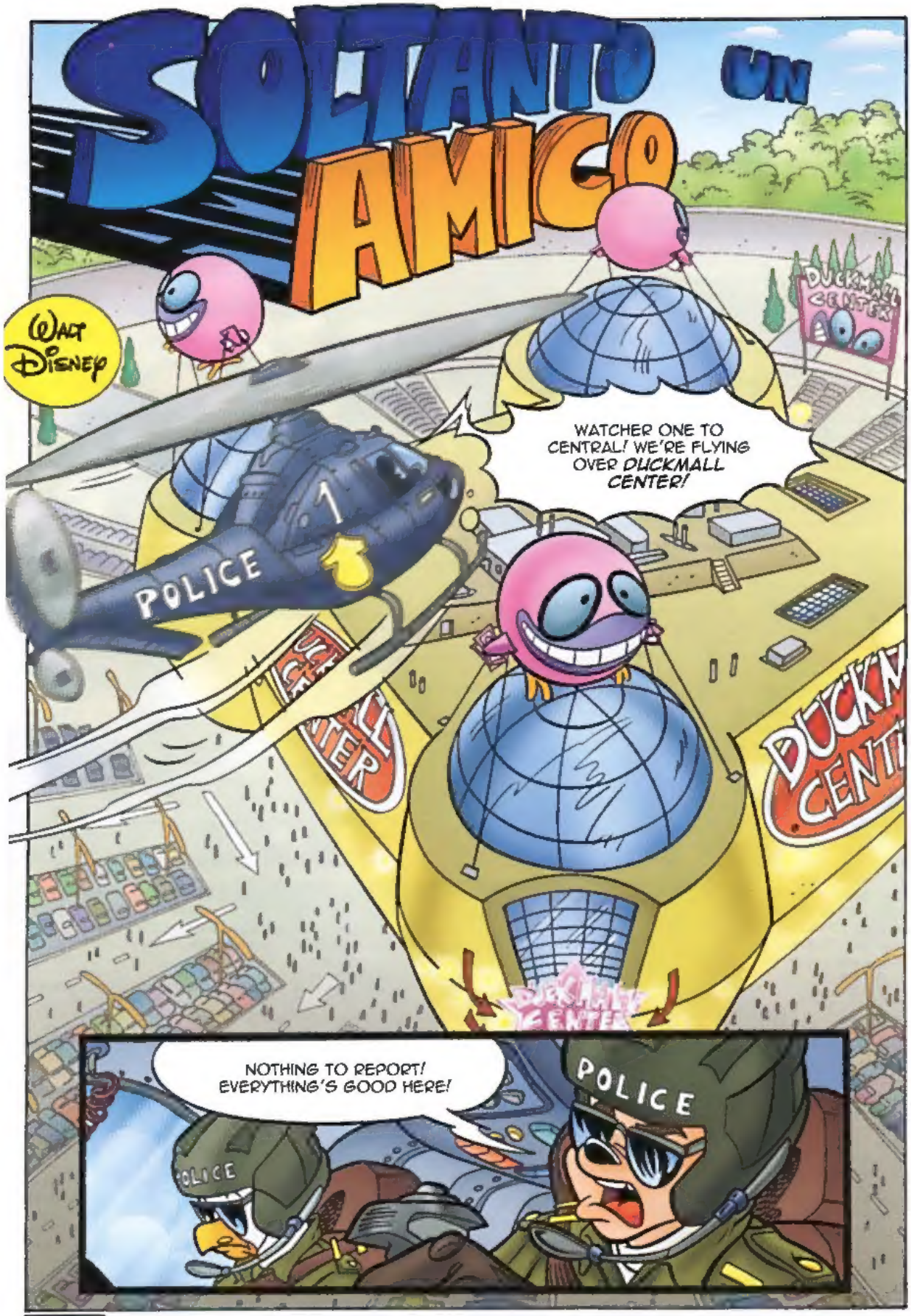
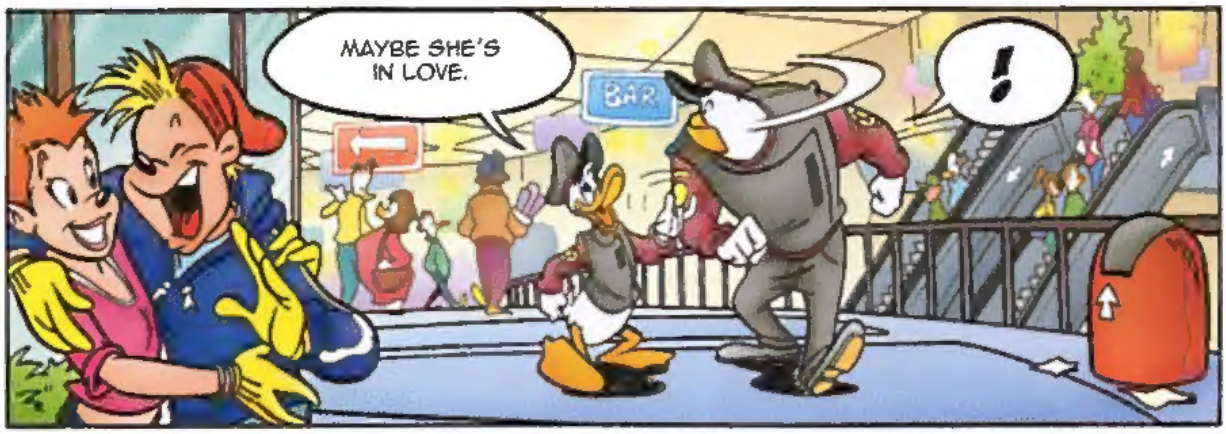

SOLTANTO UN AMICO
WALT DISNEY
POLICE
1
WATCHER ONE TO CENTRAL! WE'RE FLYING OVER DUCKMALL CENTER!
DUCKMALL CENTER
NOTHING TO REPORT! EVERYTHING'S GOOD HERE!
POLICE

I-PK²-8

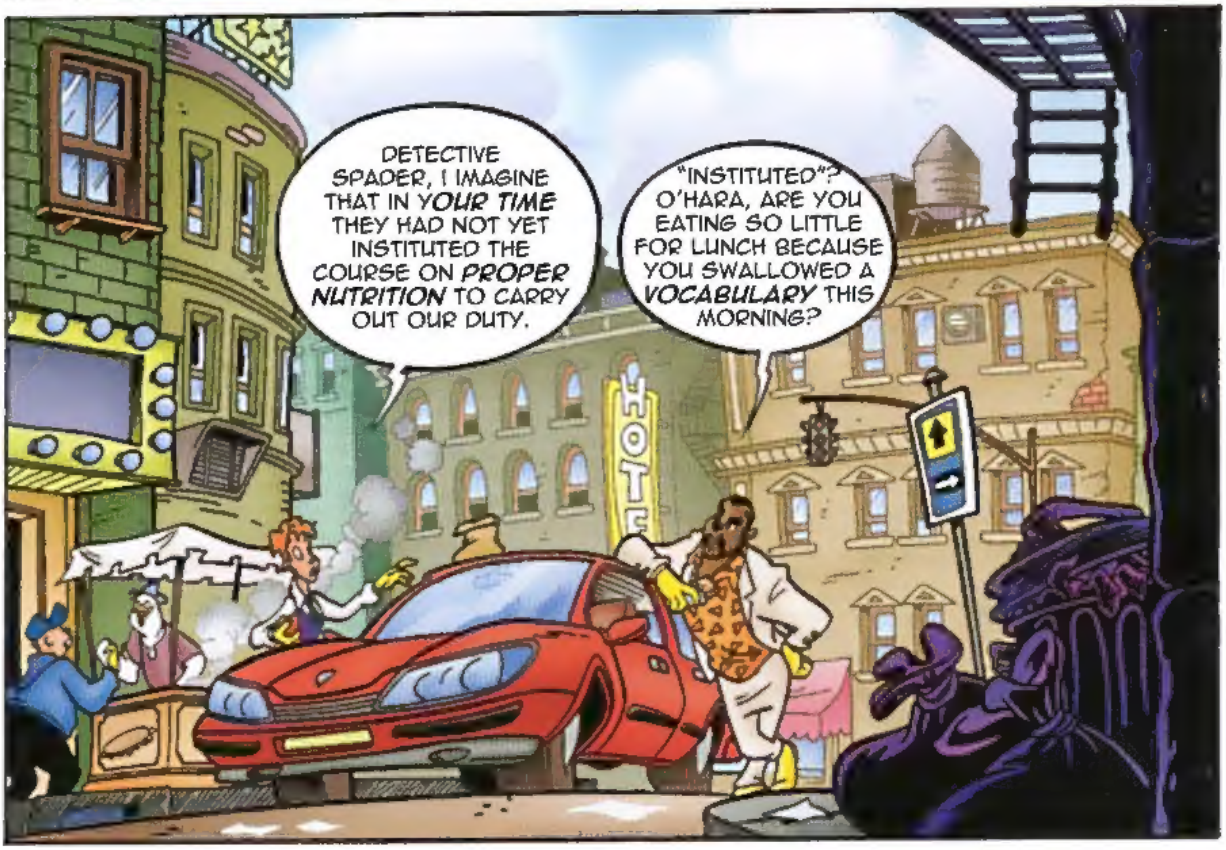
THIS WON'T DO, MISS NICE!
YOU'VE USED TOO MUCH PAPER AND THE PACKAGE IS CRIMPED. DO IT AGAIN, QUICK!
IT'S ALREADY THE *THIRD TIME* THIS MORNING. MAY I KNOW WHERE YOUR HEAD IS?
LOOK AT THAT *WASTE OF PAPER.* IF THE MILTON BROTHERS KNEW, THEY'D DEDUCT IT FROM YOUR SALARY.
POOR STELLA! SHE DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE SCOLDED SO HARSHLY. SHE'S USUALLY PRECISE...
YEAH! BUT HASN'T SHE SEEMED A BIT *LOST IN THOUGHT* THE LAST FEW DAYS?
SHE MUST BE TIRED. TO GET HERE EVERY MORNING FROM THE FLOWERS DISTRICT SHE HAS TO CHANGE *BUS FIVE TIMES.* IT'S STRESSFUL!


MAYBE SHE'S IN LOVE.
BAR
!

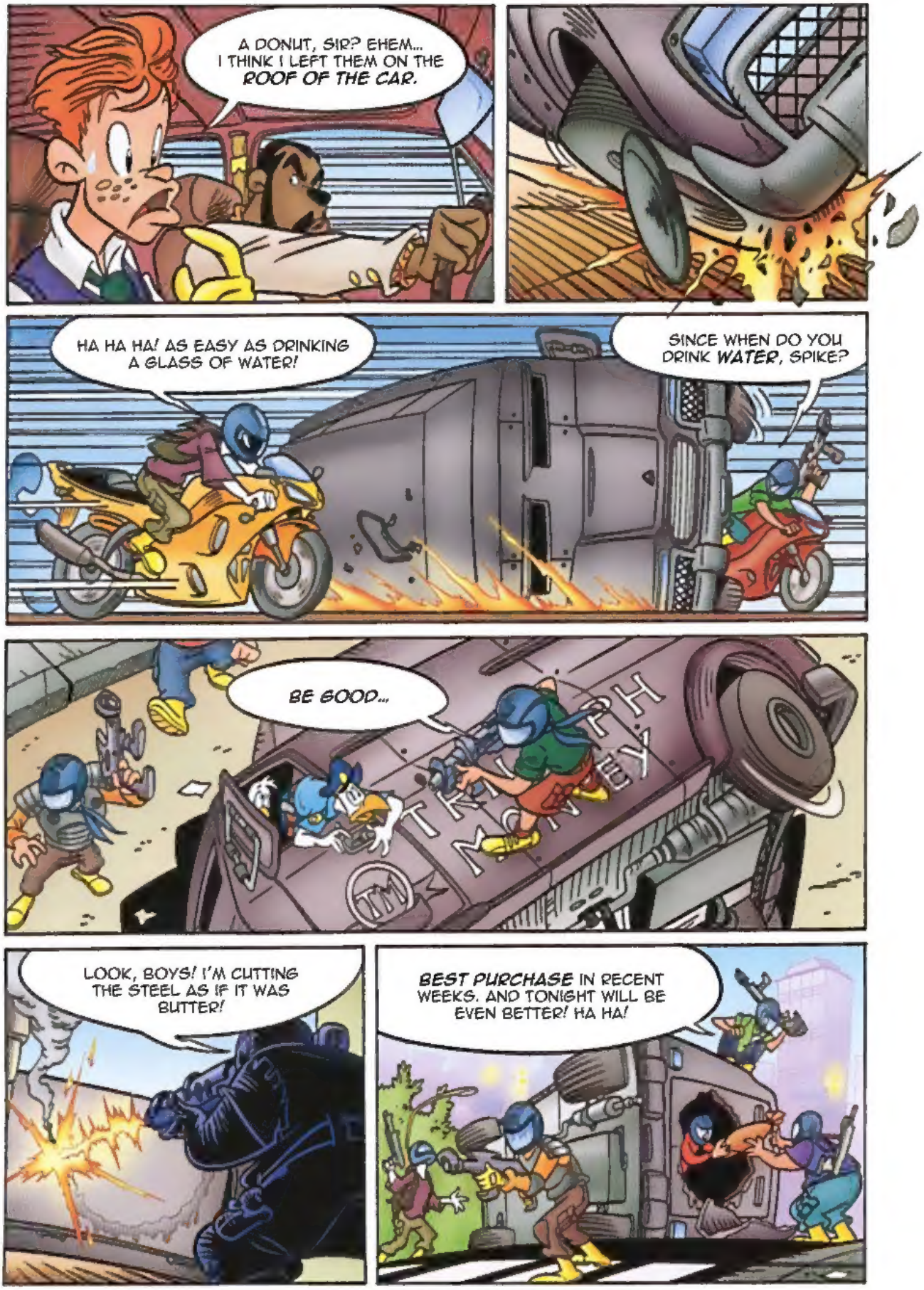
EHEM... KIDDING!

A SANDWICH WITH TRIPLE SAUCE AND TWELVE DONUTS FOR THE DETECTIVE...
DONUT

... AND AN APPLE FOR THE RECRUIT. PHEW!


DETECTIVE SPADER, I IMAGINE THAT IN YOUR TIME THEY HAD NOT YET INSTITUTED THE COURSE ON PROPER NUTRITION TO CARRY OUT OUR DUTY.
"INSTITUTED"? O'HARA, ARE YOU EATING SO LITTLE FOR LUNCH BECAUSE YOU SWALLOWED A VOCABULARY THIS MORNING?
HOTE

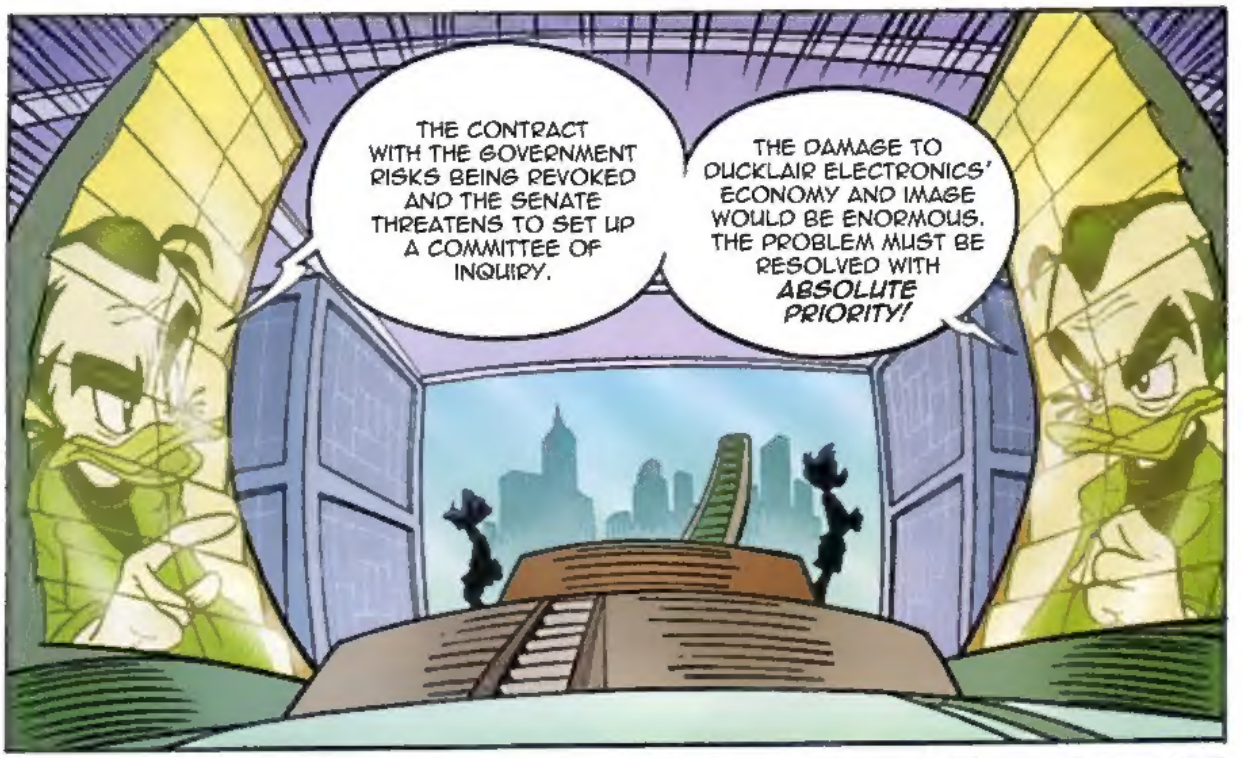
BZZZ... WATCHER ONE TO CENTRAL! MOVEMENT BETWEEN THIRD AND LEXINGTON.
A GROUP OF BIKERS WITH LASER WEAPONS ARE ATTACKING AN ARMORED TRUCK OF TRIUMPH MONEY.
SPADER HERE, I'M GOING. I'M CLOSEST BY. SEND FIVE UNITS OF REINFORCEMENTS!
HURRY UP, O'HARA! THE RATS HAVE APPEARED OUT OF THEIR BURROWS, AND THIS TIME I WANT TO THROW THEM IN A COLD PLACE.
DETECTIVE SPADER, I REMIND YOU THAT, BEFORE STARTING THE ENGINE, YOU SHOULD GIVE ALL THE PASSENGERS ENOUGH TIME TO FASTEN THEIR SEAT BELTS.
BE QUIET, O'HARA. PASS ME A DONUT!
VROOOM
JO PIZZA

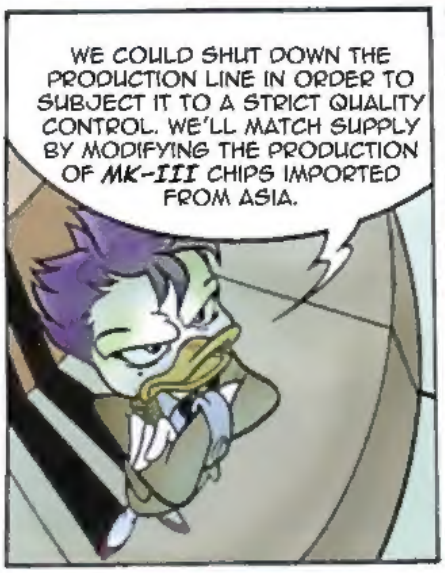

A DONUT, SIR? EHEM... I THINK I LEFT THEM ON THE ROOF OF THE CAR.
HA HA HA! AS EASY AS DRINKING A GLASS OF WATER!
SINCE WHEN DO YOU DRINK WATER, SPIKE?
BE GOOD...
LOOK, BOYS! I'M CUTTING THE STEEL AS IF IT WAS BUTTER!
BEST PURCHASE IN RECENT WEEKS. AND TONIGHT WILL BE EVEN BETTER! HA HA!

VEEEO
VEEEO
THE COPS!
GO! QUICK!
WE CAME TOO LAT... OOOPS!
SCREEEEEEEE
YOU DRIVE!

O'HARA, STAY THERE!
YES... GURGLE....
UEEEO
UEEEO
UNIT FIVE. WE'RE ON THE WAY!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR A ROADBLOCK...
BUT I JUST NEED TO CAPTURE ONE...
BANG
GOODBYE! HA HA!
15

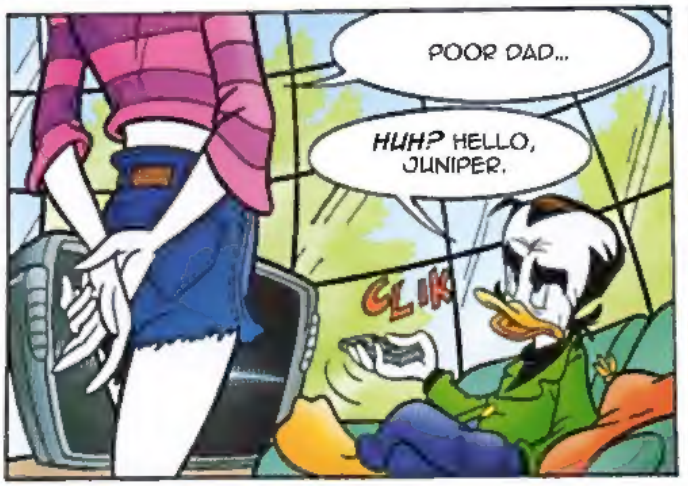
HANDS ON YOUR HEAD! O'HARA, COME HERE. READ HIM HIS *RIGHTS*.
YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, KID.
DUCKLAIR ELECTRONICS IS NAVIGATING TROUBLED WATERS.
I'VE ALSO RECEIVED THE NEWS THAT SOME OF THE CHIPS ARE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WEAPONS USED BY CRIMINAL GANGS.
ACCORDING TO THE ARMY, THE MICROCHIPS FOR THE NEW WEAPONS SYSTEM OFFER UNSATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE. *IT'S POOR MATERIAL.*

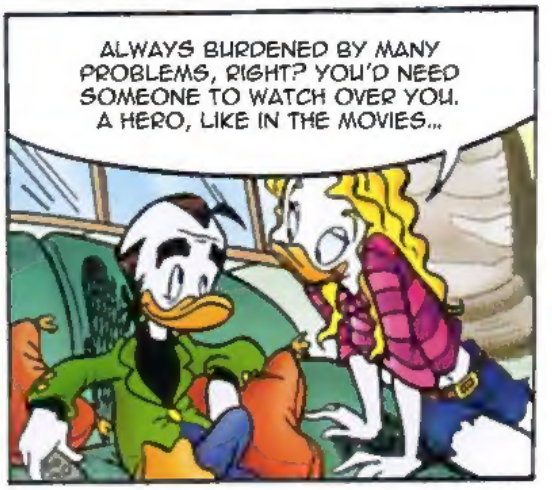

THE CONTRACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT RISKS BEING REVOKED AND THE SENATE THREATENS TO SET UP A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.
THE DAMAGE TO DUCKLAIR ELECTRONICS' ECONOMY AND IMAGE WOULD BE ENORMOUS. THE PROBLEM MUST BE RESOLVED WITH ABSOLUTE PRIORITY!


WE COULD SHUT DOWN THE PRODUCTION LINE IN ORDER TO SUBJECT IT TO A STRICT QUALITY CONTROL. WE'LL MATCH SUPPLY BY MODIFYING THE PRODUCTION OF MK-III CHIPS IMPORTED FROM ASIA.

EXPENSIVE. EXCESSIVE WASTE OF MEANS AND RESOURCES. A PRUDENT CONTROL, WITHOUT ALTERING THE CURRENT SITUATION, WILL REVEAL MUCH MORE INFORMATION.

I'M SORRY, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUR STRATEGIES. I TRUST YOU.


POOR DAD...
HUH? HELLO, JUNIPER.
CLIK

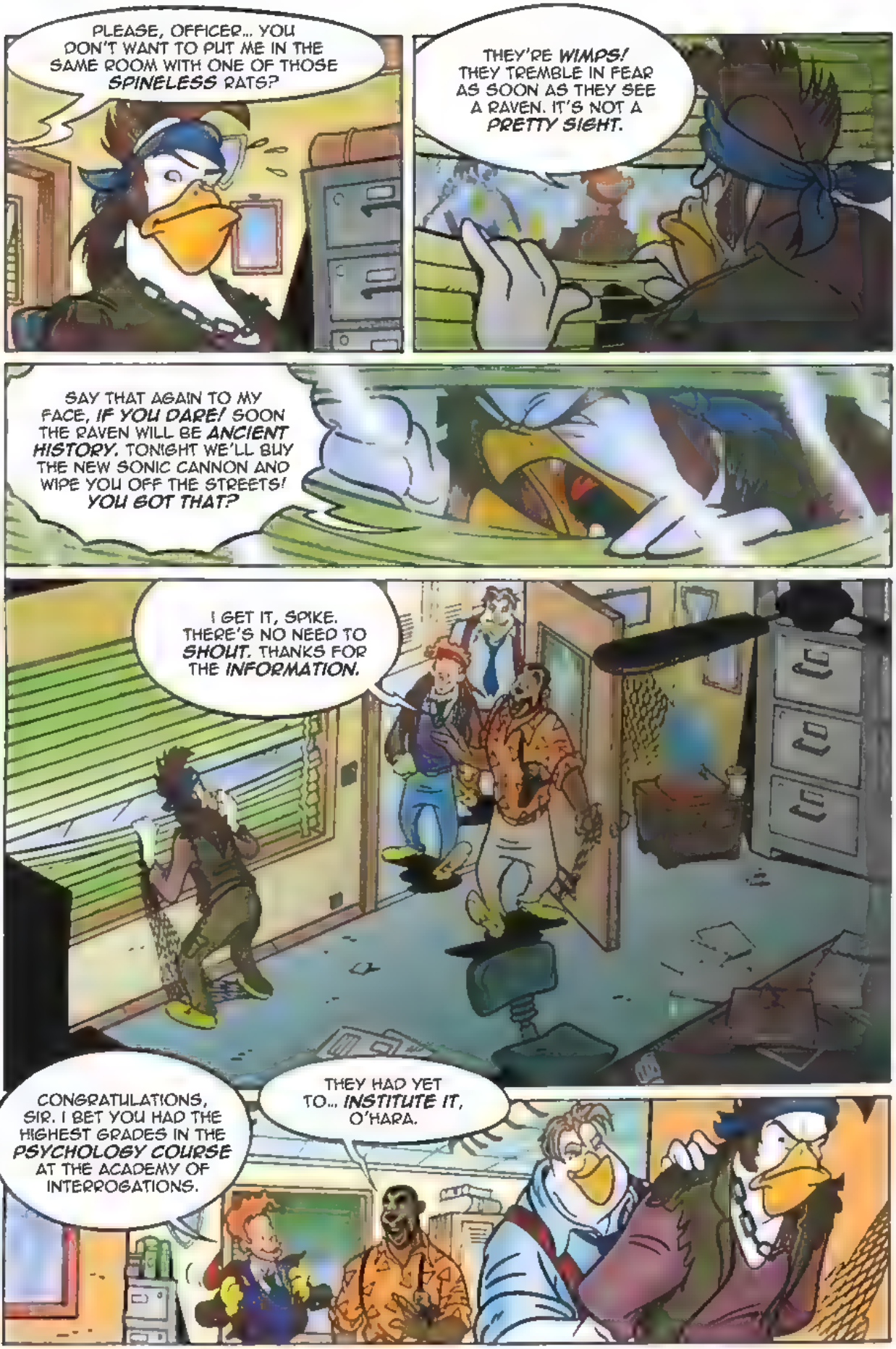

ALWAYS BURDENED BY MANY PROBLEMS, RIGHT? YOU'D NEED SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER YOU. A HERO, LIKE IN THE MOVIES...

SOMEONE LIKE THE DUCK AVENGER, FOR EXAMPLE.
SNIFF!
BE STRONG! A REPROACH EVERY NOW AND THEN ISN'T SERIOUS. IF YOU KNEW HOW MUCH I'VE ENDURED IN THE PAST!
SNIFF! THE PAST... HAVE YOU EVER DREAMED OF CHANGING IT AND THEN, SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING IS AS BEFORE?
EVERY TIME UNCLE SCROOGE HAS CALLED ME TO POLISH COINS!
BEWARE OF YOUR FRIENDS, IF YOU THINK YOU DON'T HAVE ENEMIES.

WHAT DID YOU SAY, FITZROY?
THAT IT'S SAD WHEN FRIENDS BETRAY YOUR TRUST.
CHEER UP. IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT WORRIES YOU, YOU CAN TALK TO ME OR RUPERT. YOU'LL SEE THAT WE'LL FIND A SOLUTION.
BETRAY? NO! DONALD WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME.
YOU KNOW... SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO FIND THE STRENGTH TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS ON YOUR OWN, WITHOUT INVOLVING THOSE CLOSE TO YOU.
SEE? DONALD'S JUST WORRIED FOR STELLA, LIKE ME.
YEAH! BUT IT'S NOT YOU WHO'S CONSOLING HER
YOU AND RUPERT ARE SO DEAR FRIENDS...
BAR
BAR
WAKE UP, RUPERT.

YOU HOT, SPIKE?
I'M USED TO BEING NEAR LAMPS ALL DAY.
I'M TIRED OF YOUR GANG WAR. RATS AND RAVEN HAVE TURNED DUCKBURG INTO A PLAYROOM WHERE YOU TRY OUT YOUR TECHNOTOYS!
ARE YOU JEALOUS? YOU WANT ONE TOO, I BET!
GIVE ME A GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T THROW YOU IN JAIL FOR THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS.

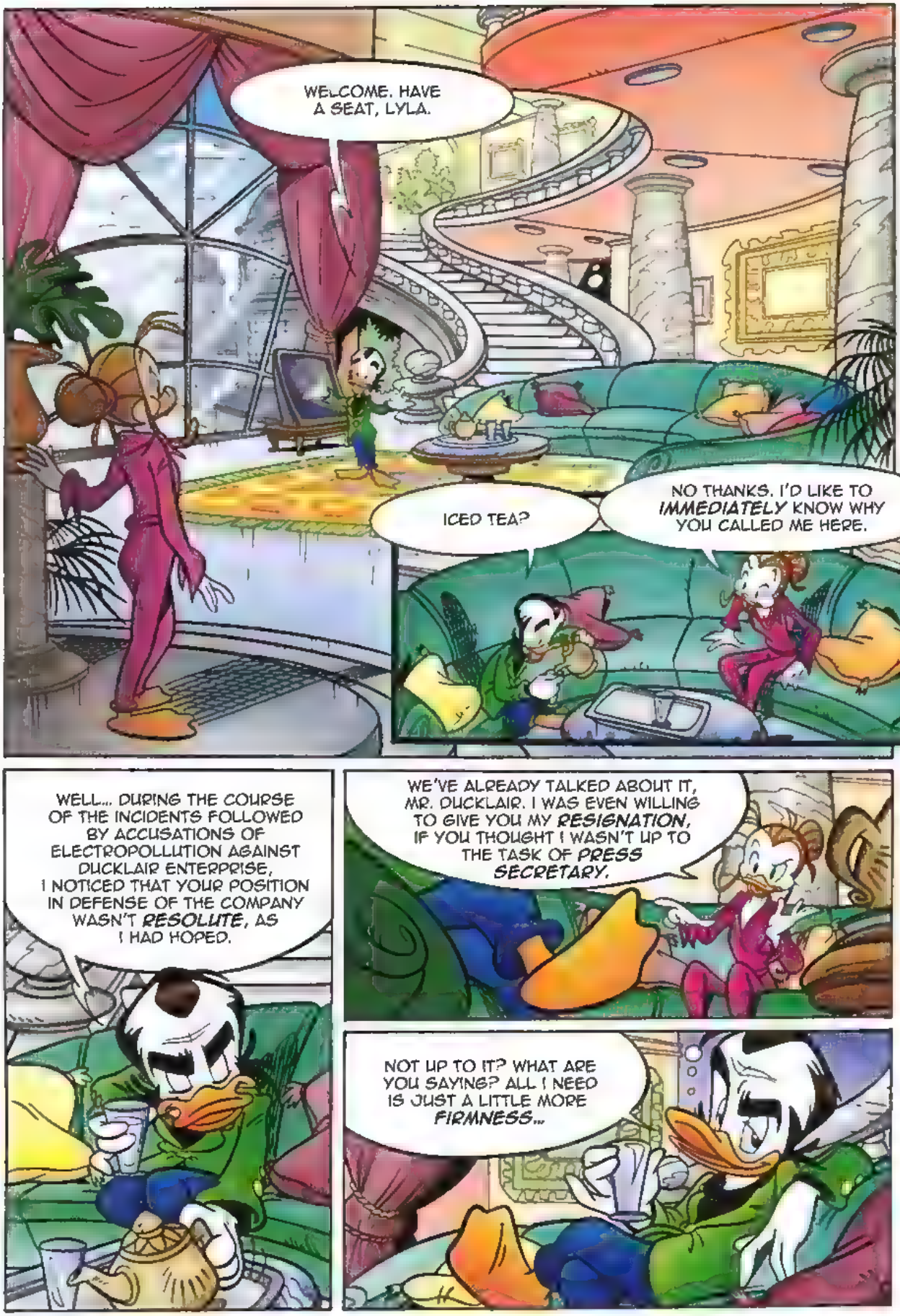
BECAUSE MY FRIENDS WOULD MAKE YOU *REGRET IT?*
STOP! LET'S GO.
I DIDN'T STRUGGLE TO CATCH HIM JUST SO A CHEAP LAWYER CAN HAVE HIM RELEASED ON BAIL WITH THE EXCUSE OF MALTREATMENT.
SPIKE WILL EXPLAIN TO US WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY.
IT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. TWO GANGS ARE FIGHTING OVER THE TERRITORY AND HAVE FOUND SOMEONE WHO SUPPLIES THEM THE *HIGH-TECH WEAPONS.*
EXACTLY! SO FAR THEY'VE ATTACKED JEWELERS AND BANKS. THE ROBBERY OF THE ARMORED TRUCK CARRYING SUPERMARKET WAGES COULD MEAN...
... THAT THEY NEED *A LOT OF MONEY* IN CASH. AND FAST!
RIGHT, O'HARA. COME WITH ME. I NEED YOUR *HELP.*


PLEASE, OFFICER... YOU DON'T WANT TO PUT ME IN THE SAME ROOM WITH ONE OF THOSE SPINELESS RATS?
THEY'RE WIMPS! THEY TREMBLE IN FEAR AS SOON AS THEY SEE A RAVEN. IT'S NOT A PRETTY SIGHT.
SAY THAT AGAIN TO MY FACE, IF YOU DARE! SOON THE RAVEN WILL BE ANCIENT HISTORY. TONIGHT WE'LL BUY THE NEW SONIC CANNON AND WIPE YOU OFF THE STREETS! YOU GOT THAT?
I GET IT, SPIKE. THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT. THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION.
CONGRATULATIONS, SIR. I BET YOU HAD THE HIGHEST GRADES IN THE PSYCHOLOGY COURSE AT THE ACADEMY OF INTERROGATIONS.
THEY HAD YET TO... INSTITUTE IT, O'HARA.

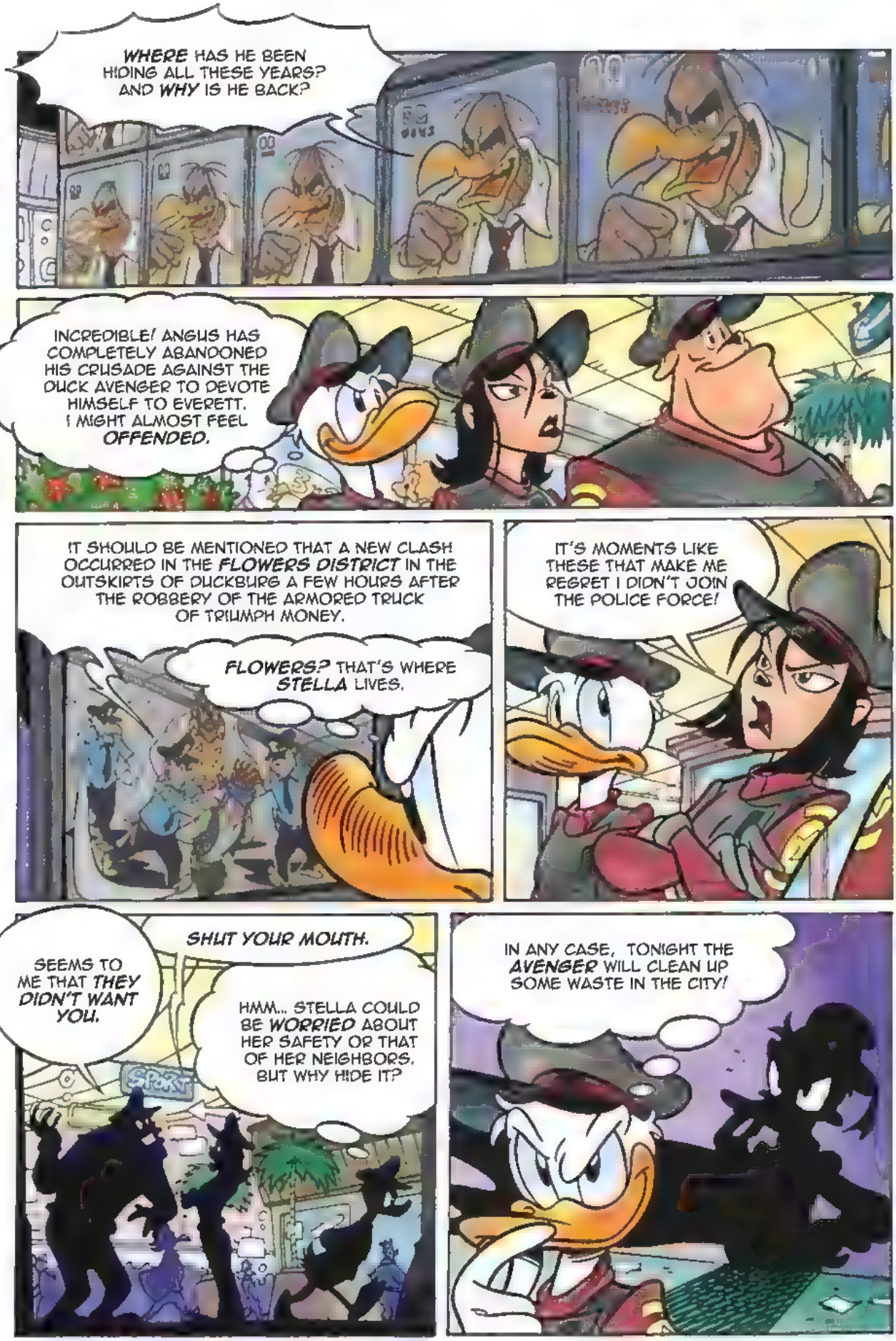
THIS IS A TRICK I LEARNED WHEN I WAS A POLICE OFFICER. I IMAGINE YOU, HOWEVER, HAVE FOLLOWED THE COURSE OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION.
YOU LIKE MY INTERPRETATION, RIGHT?
SIR, RESULTS FROM THE LAB!
THE TECHNICIANS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE ARRESTEE'S WEAPON CONTAINED A MILITARY PRODUCED CHIP FROM DUCKLAIR ELECTRONICS.
AS USUAL! I BET THAT CANNON SPIKE TALKED ABOUT ALSO HAS THE SAME PROVENANCE.
THEN IT CONFIRMS THE INVOLVEMENT OF DUCKLAIR ELECTRONICS IN THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD GANGS?
PP 2345
WHO... ANGUS FANGUS? WHO LET THIS JACKAL IN? GET HIM OUT!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS, SPADER! I DEFEND THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION FOR ALL CITIZENS! THEY NEED TO KNOW THAT THE CITY IS IN THE HANDS OF A WOLF DISGUISED AS A PHILANTHROPIST!

I SUGGEST YOU DON'T CONTRADICT ME OPENLY IN FRONT OF MR. DUCKLAIR AGAIN.
THE CONTRADICTION IS THE SIMPLE EXPOSURE OF A CONTRARY VIEW. THE WILLINGNESS TO CONFRONT WITH DIFFERENT OPINIONS IS AN INDICATION OF PROFESSIONALISM!
THE HARDLINE IS HOWEVER ESSENTIAL! DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISE CAN'T AFFORD A SCANDAL.
AREA 1
YOUR BUREAUCRATIC METHODS SERVE ONLY TO POSTPONE THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. A CALCULATOR ISN'T ENOUGH TO MANAGE A MULTINATIONAL COMPANY... IT TAKES DECISIVENESS.
THE NUMBERS HIDE MANY TRUTHS. SOMETIMES YOU SHOULD TALK TO CARDAXIS AT THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION. HE'D MAKE YOU REFLECT ON IT...

CARDAXIS IS A SCIENTIST. HE MERELY DEALS WITH TRANSFORMING FORMULAS OF THE LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE... IT'S I WHO PROCURED THE BILLIONS FOR THE INSTRUMENTS HE PLAYS WITH!
I'VE ALREADY SAID IT ONCE, BIRGIT. YOU'RE AN EXHIBITIONIST. YOU SHOULD LEARN TO BE MORE MODEST...
I HAVEN'T SAID IT YET, ANYMORE... YOU'RE A MOLLUSC!
TLUNK
BZZZZZZZ


WELCOME. HAVE A SEAT, LYLA.
ICED TEA?
NO THANKS. I'D LIKE TO *IMMEDIATELY* KNOW WHY YOU CALLED ME HERE.
WELL... DURING THE COURSE OF THE INCIDENTS FOLLOWED BY ACCUSATIONS OF ELECTROPOLLUTION AGAINST DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISE, I NOTICED THAT YOUR POSITION IN DEFENSE OF THE COMPANY WASN'T *RESOLUTE*, AS I HAD HOPED.
WE'VE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT IT, MR. DUCKLAIR. I WAS EVEN WILLING TO GIVE YOU MY *RESIGNATION*, IF YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T UP TO THE TASK OF *PRESS SECRETARY*.
NOT UP TO IT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? ALL I NEED IS JUST A LITTLE MORE *FIRMNESS*...

WE COULD CALL IT A CLEAR AND INDISPUTABLE APPROVAL OF THE ACTIVITIES OF DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISE.
I DEAL WITH THE TRUTH, MR. DUCKLAIR. THE TRUTH DOESN'T BEND TO PRIVATE INTERESTS.
DAD, LOOK. THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU ON THE NEWS.
ZAP
IS IT THEREFORE TRUE THAT EVERETT DUCKLAIR IS HIDING A SINISTER PLAN BEHIND THE FOLDING SCREEN OF HIS BUSINESSES? WELL-INFORMED SOURCES SPECULATE THAT BEHIND THE RECENT GANG WAR HIDES A STRATEGY OF DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISE.
SEE, LYLA? THIS IS WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT. I CAN'T BE INVOLVED IN SCANDALS LIKE THIS.
I CAN'T INTERFERE WITH ANGUS' JOURNALISTIC DECISIONS. BUT IF WHAT HE SAYS IS FALSE, I'LL FIGHT TO REVEAL THE TRUTH.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
WHAT INTERESTS TIE EVERETT DUCKLAIR TO ORGANIZED CRIME? WHY DOES HE REFUSE TO TALK TO THE ONLY JOURNALIST WHO JUST WANTS TO KNOW THE TRUTH?


WHERE HAS HE BEEN HIDING ALL THESE YEARS? AND WHY IS HE BACK?
INCREDIBLE! ANGUS HAS COMPLETELY ABANDONED HIS CRUSADE AGAINST THE DUCK AVENGER TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO EVERETT. I MIGHT ALMOST FEEL OFFENDED.
IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED THAT A NEW CLASH OCCURRED IN THE FLOWERS DISTRICT IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF DUCKBURG A FEW HOURS AFTER THE ROBBERY OF THE ARMORED TRUCK OF TRIUMPH MONEY.
FLOWERS? THAT'S WHERE STELLA LIVES.
IT'S MOMENTS LIKE THESE THAT MAKE ME REGRET I DIDN'T JOIN THE POLICE FORCE!
SEEMS TO ME THAT THEY DIDN'T WANT YOU.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
HMM... STELLA COULD BE WORRIED ABOUT HER SAFETY OR THAT OF HER NEIGHBORS. BUT WHY HIDE IT?
IN ANY CASE, TONIGHT THE AVENGER WILL CLEAN UP SOME WASTE IN THE CITY!

FLOWERS
WELCOME HOME, STELLA.
HI, LUCAS.
DID YOU BUY THE DRINKS I ASKED FOR?
IT'S SO BORING TO STAY AT HOME ALL DAY, WITHOUT EVEN ANYTHING TO DRINK... YOU SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO SOME MORE INTERESTING TV CHANNELS.

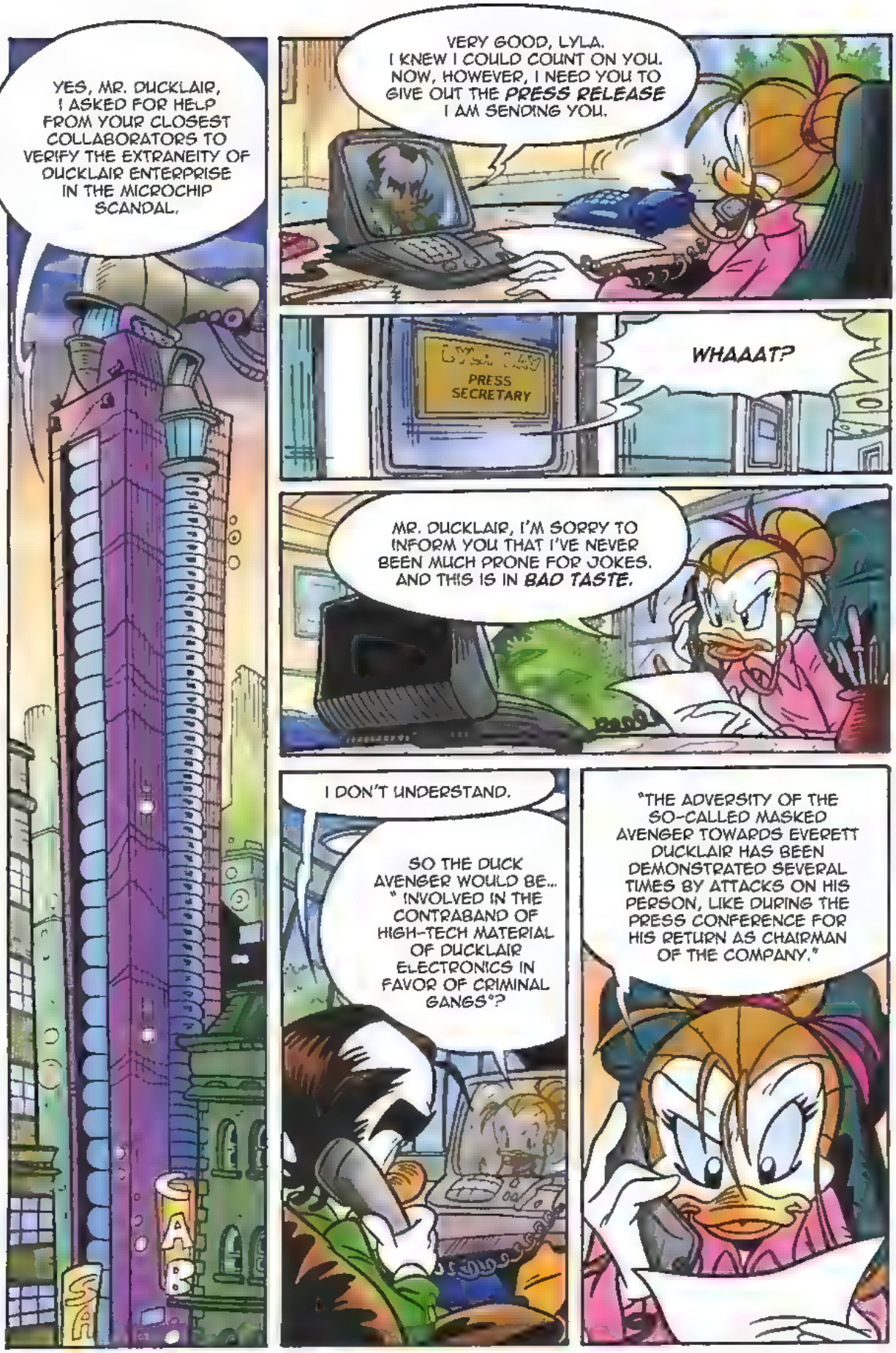
CABLE TV IS TOO EXPENSIVE.
WHAT DO YOU WORRY ABOUT, DARLING? SOON WE'LL BE RICH.
17
POLICE
SULLIVAN TO CENTRAL. NOTHING TO REPORT.
17
POLICE

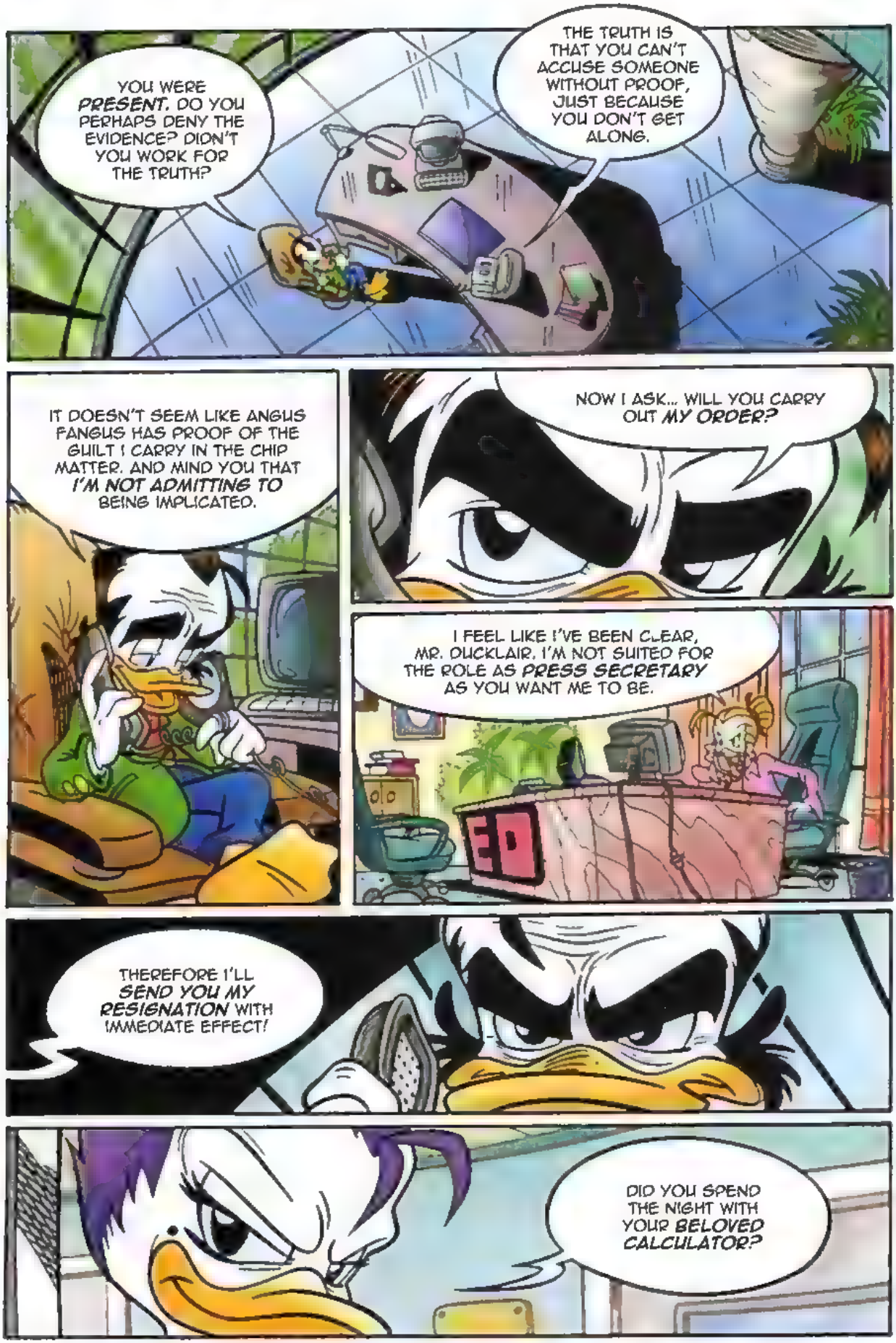
DID YOU BRING THE MERCHANDISE?
LET'S SEE THE MONEY.
SPADER HERE, STAND READY.

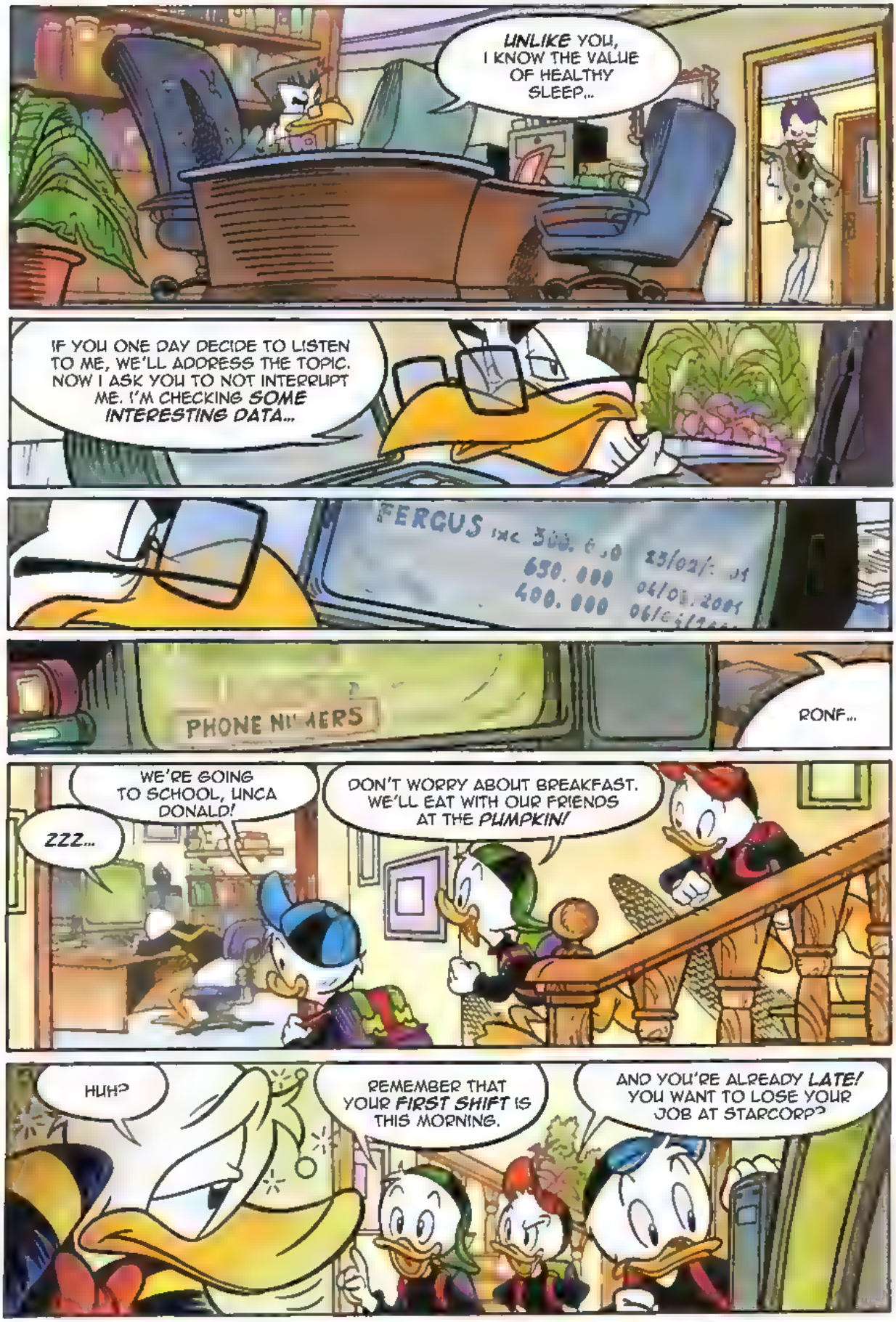
FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. YOU WANT TO COUNT OR DO WE IMMEDIATELY CLOSE THE DEAL?
YOU'D NEVER TRICK OLD SMITHY. HERE'S YOUR SONIC CANNON.
IF YOU PLEASE, I'LL TAKE THIS!
IF YOU PLEASE, WE'LL TAKE THIS!
THE RAVEN!
DUCK AVENGER!
WHAT THE... THE AMBUSH IS BLOWN! INTERVENE! IMMEDIATELY!
HEY! PUT DOWN THAT TOASTER. IT'S NOT YET TIME FOR BREAKFAST.

BANG
THE POLICE!
HEY!
UEEEO
UEEEO
LET'S RUN!
THIS IS OURS.
BOSS, THE PLAN HAS FAILED. THE RATS STILL HAVE THE CANNON.
BANG
CAN I ALSO SAY SOMETHING TO YOUR BOSS?
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

ARREST EVERYONE... INCLUDING THE AVENGER!
UH OH! BETTER RUN.
VROOM
SGRUNT! IT WAS THE RIGHT OCCASION TO STOP BOTH GANGS AND I FIND MYSELF WITH ONLY FOUR CRIMINALS IN HANDCUFFS.
POLICE
IF THAT MASKED AVENGER DIDN'T GET IN THE WAY... I'M TIRED OF HIS INTERFERENCE WITH THE WORK OF THE POLICE.
IF HE HADN'T ALREADY SAVED MANY INNOCENTS, I'D THINK THAT THIS TIME HE SIDED WITH THESE CRIMINALS.


YES, MR. DUCKLAIR, I ASKED FOR HELP FROM YOUR CLOSEST COLLABORATORS TO VERIFY THE EXTRANEITY OF DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISE IN THE MICROCHIP SCANDAL.
VERY GOOD, LYLA. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU. NOW, HOWEVER, I NEED YOU TO GIVE OUT THE PRESS RELEASE I AM SENDING YOU.
PRESS SECRETARY
WHAAAT?
MR. DUCKLAIR, I'M SORRY TO INFORM YOU THAT I'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH PRONE FOR JOKES. AND THIS IS IN BAD TASTE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
SO THE DUCK AVENGER WOULD BE... " INVOLVED IN THE CONTRABAND OF HIGH-TECH MATERIAL OF DUCKLAIR ELECTRONICS IN FAVOR OF CRIMINAL GANGS"?
"THE ADVERSITY OF THE SO-CALLED MASKED AVENGER TOWARDS EVERETT DUCKLAIR HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED SEVERAL TIMES BY ATTACKS ON HIS PERSON, LIKE DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOR HIS RETURN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMPANY."


YOU WERE *PRESENT.* DO YOU PERHAPS DENY THE EVIDENCE? DIDN'T YOU WORK FOR THE TRUTH?
THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU CAN'T ACCUSE SOMEONE WITHOUT PROOF, JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T GET ALONG.
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANGUS FANGUS HAS PROOF OF THE GUILT I CARRY IN THE CHIP MATTER. AND MIND YOU THAT *I'M NOT ADMITTING TO* BEING IMPLICATED.
NOW I ASK... WILL YOU CARRY OUT *MY ORDER?*
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN CLEAR, MR. DUCKLAIR. I'M NOT SUITED FOR THE ROLE AS *PRESS SECRETARY* AS YOU WANT ME TO BE.
THEREFORE I'LL *SEND YOU MY RESIGNATION* WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT!
DID YOU SPEND THE NIGHT WITH YOUR *BELOVED CALCULATOR?*


UNLIKE YOU, I KNOW THE VALUE OF HEALTHY SLEEP...
IF YOU ONE DAY DECIDE TO LISTEN TO ME, WE'LL ADDRESS THE TOPIC. NOW I ASK YOU TO NOT INTERRUPT ME. I'M CHECKING SOME INTERESTING DATA...
FERGUS
650.000
400.000
PHONE NUMBERS
RONF...
WE'RE GOING TO SCHOOL, UNCA DONALD!
ZZZ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT BREAKFAST. WE'LL EAT WITH OUR FRIENDS AT THE PUMPKIN!
HUH?
REMEMBER THAT YOUR FIRST SHIFT IS THIS MORNING.
AND YOU'RE ALREADY LATE! YOU WANT TO LOSE YOUR JOB AT STARCORP?

AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL YOU HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY THE NEXT PHONE BILL. ACCORDING TO THE CLOCK THE COMPUTER HAS BEEN CONNECTED TO THE NETWORK FOR FIVE HOURS.
QUACK!
GLOM! I FELL ASLEEP IN FRONT OF THE MONITOR. WHAT A NIGHT!
SLAM
LUCKILY IT WASN'T ENTIRELY UNFRUITFUL. SEEING AS THESE CELLPHONES SAVES CALLED NUMBERS, I CAN DATE BACK TO THE MYSTERIOUS GANG LEADER.
I'LL CONTINUE WHERE I LEFT... SOB... FIVE HOURS AGO!
STELLA NICE
SMELL ROSE
FLOWER.

GOOD MORNING, DARLING. DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
LISTEN, I JUST TALKED TO THE BOYS AND I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO DO A SMALL JOB IN MY PLACE. NOTHING BIG.
BUT LUCAS... I'M GOING TO DUCKMALL.
RIGHT. YOU KNOW IT'S BETTER THAT I DON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE AS LONG AS MY BUSINESS ISN'T CONCLUDED WHY DON'T YOU CALL YOUR BOSSES AND ASK FOR A DAY OFF WITH THE EXCUSE THAT... YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL?
DO IT FOR ME. THINK ABOUT WHEN WE'LL BE RICH.
A-ALRIGHT.
GOOD! THEN... YOU HAVE TO GO TO CUTTER'S GARAGE, ASK FOR MOOSE AND GIVE HIM THIS MICROCHIP. HE'LL KEEP IT UNTIL TOMORROW.
BUT... WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
AN AGREEMENT. TO MY EXCLUSIVE ADVANTAGE!

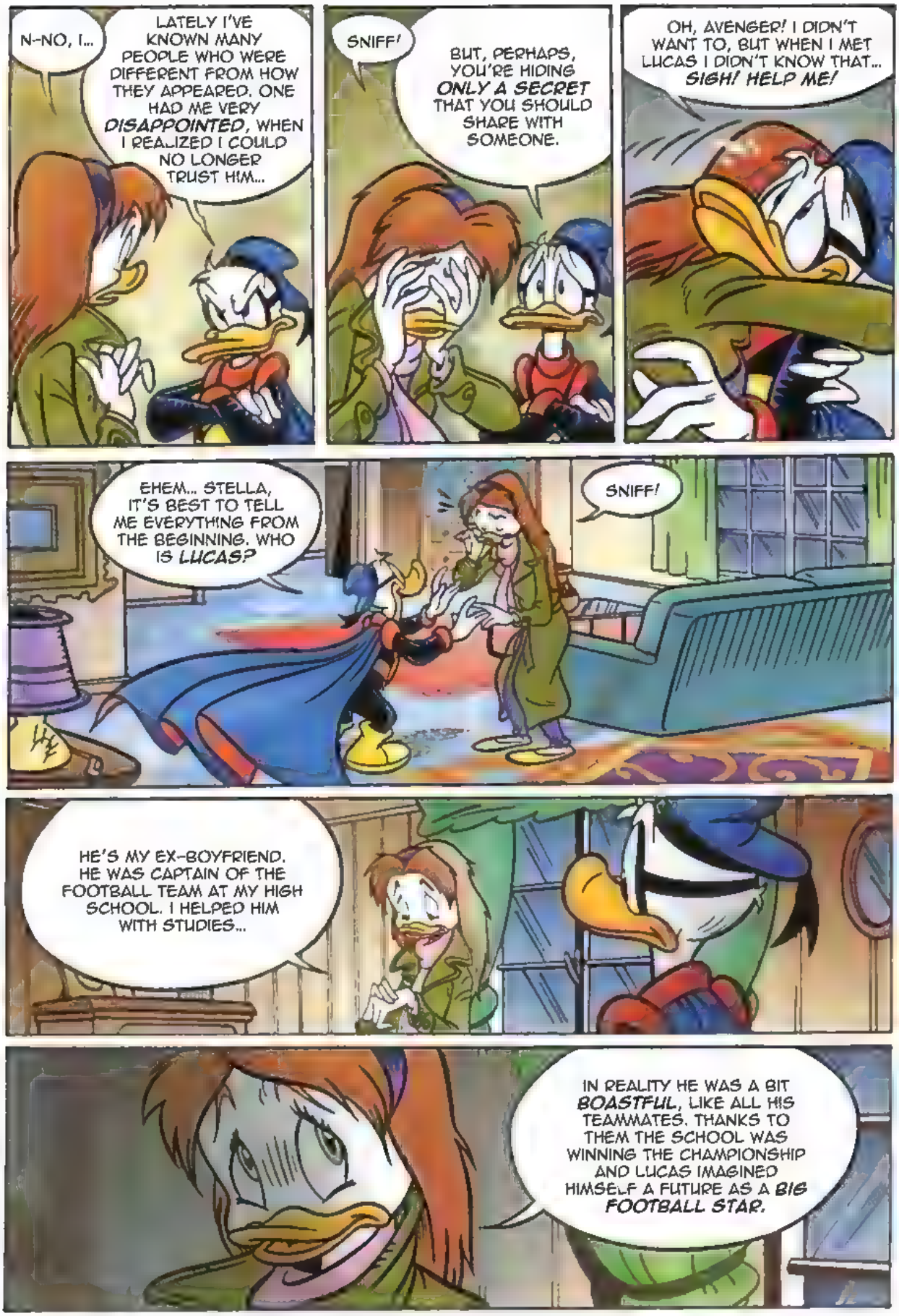
COME ON, STELLA! DON'T MAKE THAT FACE. YOU DON'T NEED TO PRETEND THAT YOU DON'T FEEL GOOD WITH ME.
LOOK HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE, BARNEY.
YEAH! EXACTLY WHEN WE'RE MISSING OUR MOST EXPERIENCED SALESCLERK. LET'S HOPE WE DON'T DISSATISFY THE COSTUMERS.
WHAT A MESS! I HOPE IT'LL SERVE AS A LESSON TO THOSE TWO UNPLEASANT GUYS WHO HAD THE COURAGE TO SCOLD HER FOR SOME SMALL DISTRACTIONS. POOR THING... SHE'S SICK TODAY!
HE, LOOKS LIKE TODAY'S THE DAY OF SUDDEN SICKNESS!

HUH?
YOU DON'T KNOW? DONALD HAS ALSO ASKED FOR A DAY OFF.
A SIMPLE COINCIDENCE, OBVIOUSLY. OF COURSE IT'S A SHAME TO STAY HOME SICK ON SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY.
I HAVE AN IDEA. WHY DON'T YOU GO VISIT STELLA? DON'T YOU THINK THAT, IF SHE'S AT HOME, SHE'D APPRECIATE A KIND GESTURE?
YOU'RE RIGHT, FITZROY. I'LL ALSO BRING A PRESENT. YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO GIVE ADVICE ON CONQUERING A GIRL'S HEART.
I SHALL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL TO YOU.
IT'S NOTHING! WHEN YOU NEED A REAL FRIEND, I'M ALWAYS HERE.
DETECTIVE SPADER, YOU KNOW HOW I'M A FRIEND OF SENATOR BULLWISE?
VIII DISTRICT
POLICE STATION

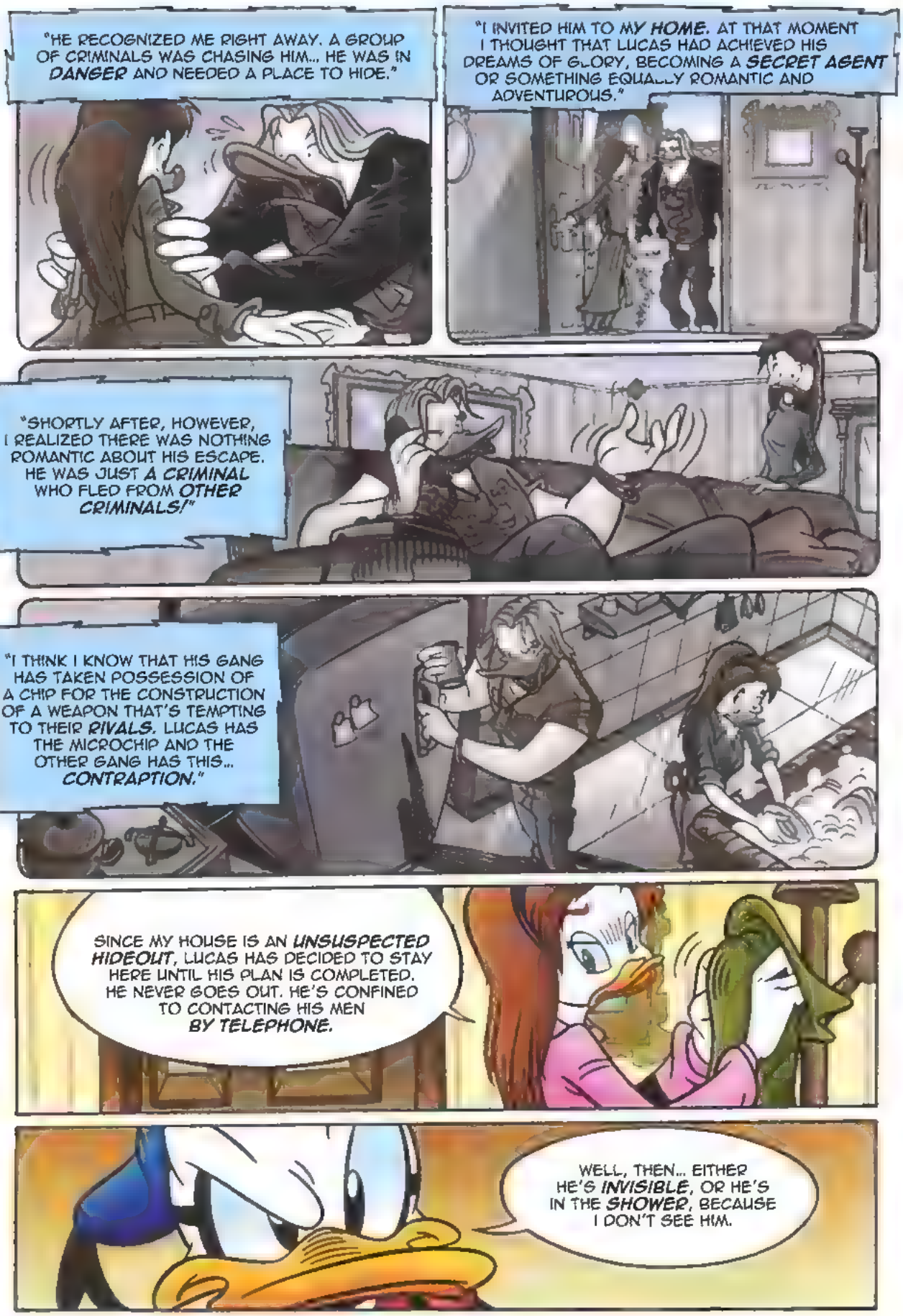
WELL, DURING THE THANK YOU DINNER FOR THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE NEW ACADEMY, THE SENATOR NOTED THAT THE POLICE *MUST NOT ACT* AND *NEVER ACT* IN BREACH OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?
THAT IT'S *OUR FIRST DUTY*, SIR.
GOOD! BECAUSE I HAD THE IMPRESSION, SHARED BY THE SENATOR, THAT YOU'RE INVETERATE AGAINST *OUR ILLUSTRIOUS FELLOW CITIZEN*, WITHOUT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO JUSTIFY THE PERSECUTION CAMPAIGN IN THE MEDIA IN RECENT DAYS.
DAILY
EVERETT DUCKLAIR INVOLVED IN GANG WAR?
I ASSURE YOU, CHIEF, THAT I'VE CARRIED OUT *ALL INVESTIGATIONS* THAT I THOUGHT NECESSARY IN FULL RESPECT OF MR. DUCKLAIR'S RIGHTS. UNFORTUNATELY IT'S NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO AVOID *NEWS LEAKS*.
RIGHT. BUT GIVEN THE POOR RESULTS, ISN'T IT TIME TO DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE INVESTIGATIONS *ELSEWHERE*?
FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT THAT *ALLEGED MASKED AVENGER* CIRCULATING SCOT-FREE AROUND THE CITY? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'VE NEVER COME TO SUSPECT THAT THE CURRENT *GANG WAR* IS FOMENTED PRECISELY BY THIS... DUCK AVENGER.

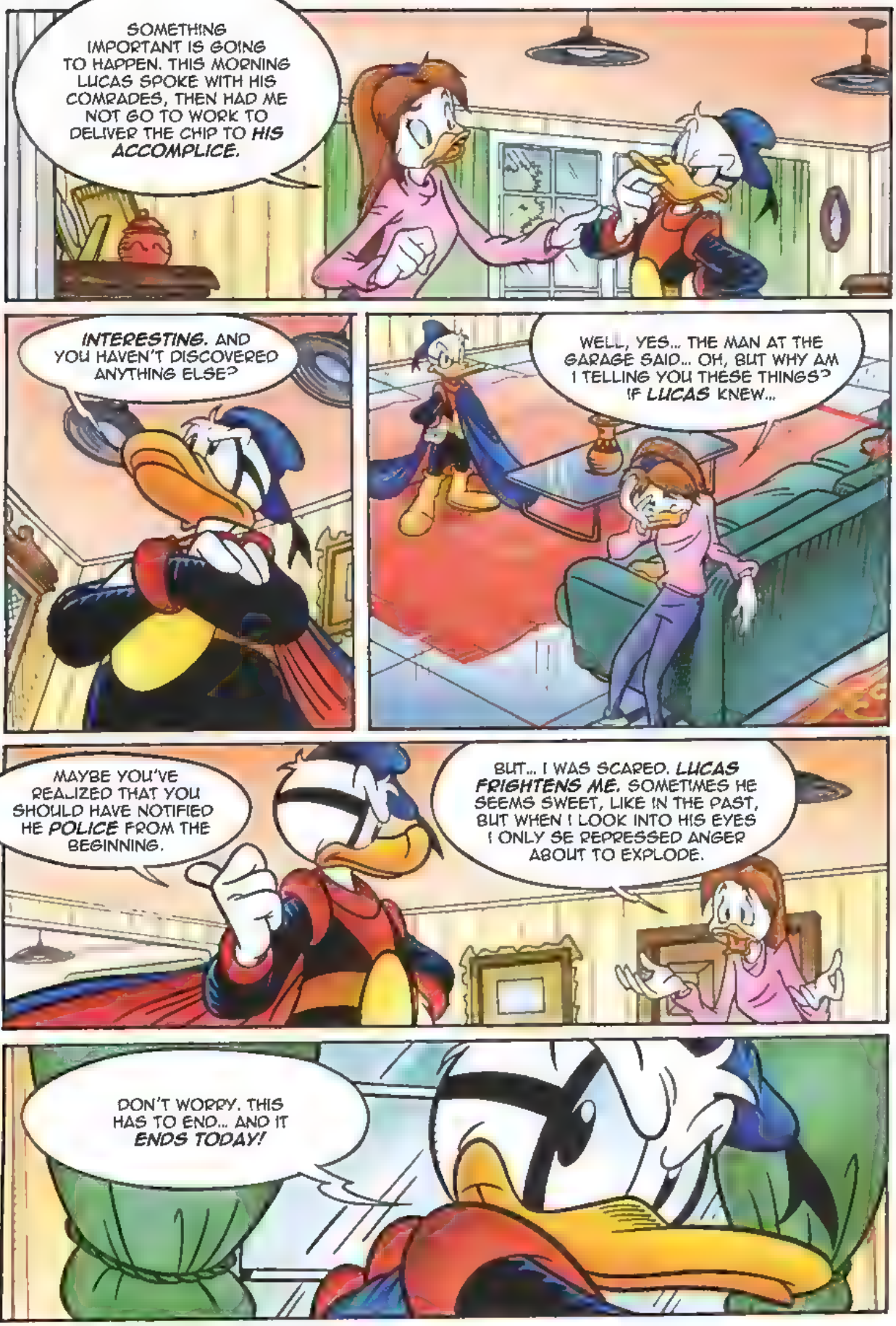
IN FACT, A SITUATION WHERE THE CITIZENS DON'T FEEL SUFFICIENTLY PROTECTED BY THE LAW IS IDEAL FOR A FIGURE ALWAYS AT THE EDGE OF THE LAW.
I ADMIT I'VE REFLECTED ON THIS POSSIBILITY. THOUGH THE AVENGER HAS DEFENDED THE CITY ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS...
TOC
TOC
BUT I WON'T TOLERATE THE INTERFERENCE OF A MASKED AVENGER IN MY WORK.
VERY GOOD, DETECTIVE SPADER. I SEE THAT, BEYOND THE DIFFERENT PERSONAL JUSTIFICATION, WE'RE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH. WELL THEN, GOOD WORK.
EXCELLENT, MY DEAR WALSH. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE FACE OF THE REAL CULPRIT OF THIS MATTER ON THE NEWS TOMORROW.

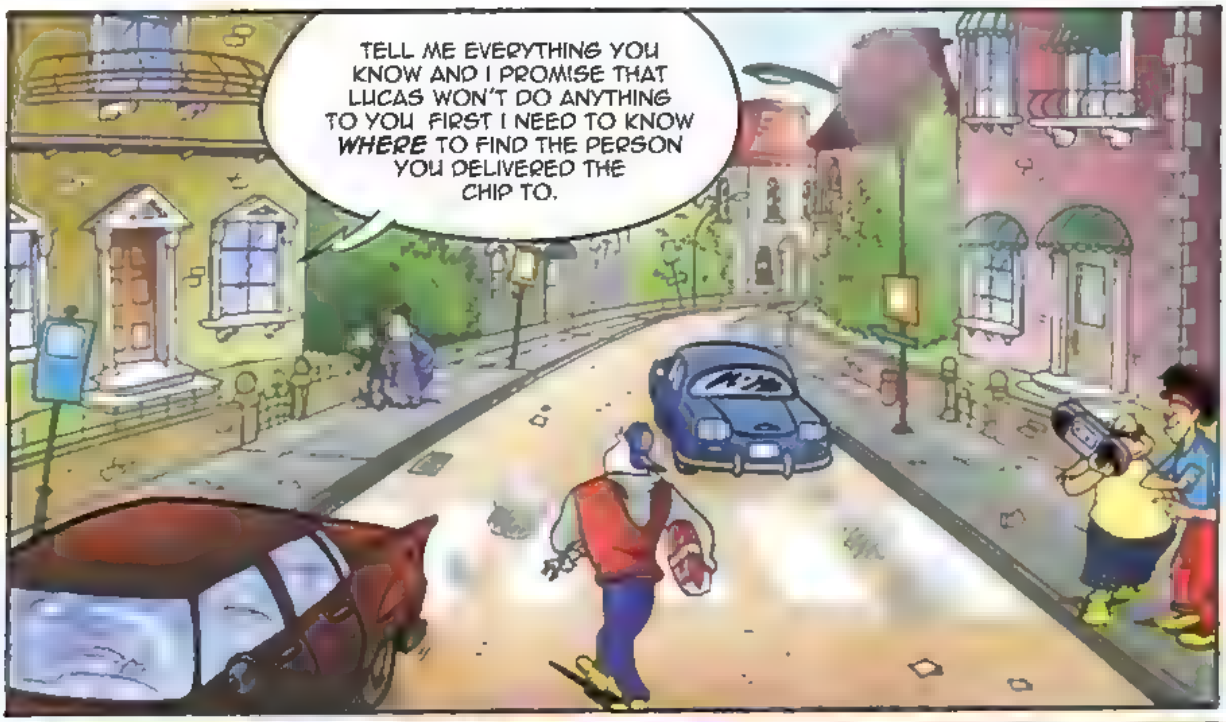
LUCAS... I'M BACK.
LUCAS?
WHERE ARE YOU? I DID WHAT YOU ASKED ME TO. NOW I CAN ALSO GO TO DUCKMALL...
OR HAVE A CHAT WITH THE POLICE! UNLESS YOU'D RATHER TALK TO ME.
DUCK AVENGER?
EXACTLY! AND ACCORDING TO THE SAVED PHONE NUMBER ON THIS CELLPHONE, YOU ARE STELLA NICE, CLERK AT DUCKMALL CENTER AND SECRET LEADER OF A GANG OF CRIMINALS

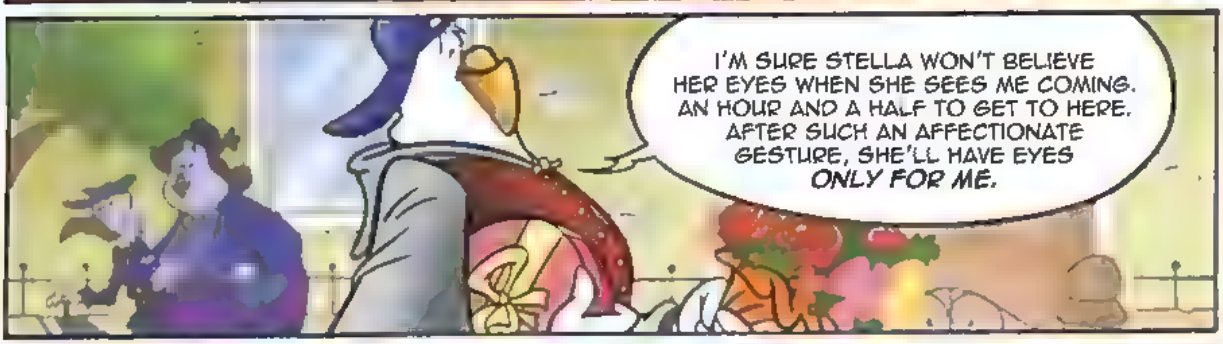

N-NO, I...
LATELY I'VE KNOWN MANY PEOPLE WHO WERE DIFFERENT FROM HOW THEY APPEARED. ONE HAD ME VERY *DISAPPOINTED*, WHEN I REALIZED I COULD NO LONGER TRUST HIM...
SNIFF!
BUT, PERHAPS, YOU'RE HIDING *ONLY A SECRET* THAT YOU SHOULD SHARE WITH SOMEONE.
OH, AVENGER! I DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT WHEN I MET LUCAS I DIDN'T KNOW THAT... *SIGH! HELP ME!*
EHEM... STELLA, IT'S BEST TO TELL ME EVERYTHING FROM THE BEGINNING. WHO IS *LUCAS?*
SNIFF!
HE'S MY EX-BOYFRIEND. HE WAS CAPTAIN OF THE FOOTBALL TEAM AT MY HIGH SCHOOL. I HELPED HIM WITH STUDIES...
IN REALITY HE WAS A BIT *BOASTFUL*, LIKE ALL HIS TEAMMATES. THANKS TO THEM THE SCHOOL WAS WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP AND LUCAS IMAGINED HIMSELF A FUTURE AS A *BIG FOOTBALL STAR.*

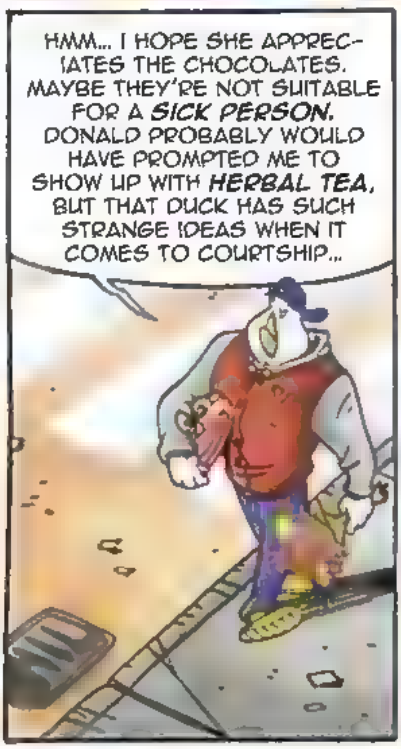
HOWEVER, THE DAY BEFORE THE FINALS, HE WAS INJURED AND COULDN'T PLAY THE GAME. THERE WERE RECRUITERS FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT TEAMS THERE AND LUCAS WAS EXCLUDED. HE DIDN'T GET THE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP AND HIS DREAM OF BECOMING A CHAMPION VANISHED.
I DON'T THINK HE'S EVER MANAGED TO MAKE PEACE WITH HIMSELF. HE KEPT APOLOGIZING FOR HIS... FAILURE. AFTER HIGH SCHOOL I WENT TO STUDY AT SANDLE ROCK. SINCE THEN WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER... UNTIL A WEEK AGO.
"I WAS RETURNING HOME WHEN I CAME ACROSS A PERSON RUNNING DESPERATELY. IT WAS LUCAS... AND HE SEEMED TO BE FLEEING FROM SOMEONE!"


"HE RECOGNIZED ME RIGHT AWAY. A GROUP OF CRIMINALS WAS CHASING HIM... HE WAS IN DANGER AND NEEDED A PLACE TO HIDE."
"I INVITED HIM TO MY HOME. AT THAT MOMENT I THOUGHT THAT LUCAS HAD ACHIEVED HIS DREAMS OF GLORY, BECOMING A SECRET AGENT OR SOMETHING EQUALLY ROMANTIC AND ADVENTUROUS."
"SHORTLY AFTER, HOWEVER, I REALIZED THERE WAS NOTHING ROMANTIC ABOUT HIS ESCAPE. HE WAS JUST A CRIMINAL WHO FLED FROM OTHER CRIMINALS!"
"I THINK I KNOW THAT HIS GANG HAS TAKEN POSSESSION OF A CHIP FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WEAPON THAT'S TEMPTING TO THEIR RIVALS. LUCAS HAS THE MICROCHIP AND THE OTHER GANG HAS THIS... CONTRAPTION."
SINCE MY HOUSE IS AN UNSUSPECTED HIDEOUT, LUCAS HAS DECIDED TO STAY HERE UNTIL HIS PLAN IS COMPLETED. HE NEVER GOES OUT. HE'S CONFINED TO CONTACTING HIS MEN BY TELEPHONE.
WELL, THEN... EITHER HE'S INVISIBLE, OR HE'S IN THE SHOWER, BECAUSE I DON'T SEE HIM.


SOMETHING IMPORTANT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. THIS MORNING LUCAS SPOKE WITH HIS COMRADES, THEN HAD ME NOT GO TO WORK TO DELIVER THE CHIP TO *HIS ACCOMPLICE.*
INTERESTING. AND YOU HAVEN'T DISCOVERED ANYTHING ELSE?
WELL, YES... THE MAN AT THE GARAGE SAID... OH, BUT WHY AM I TELLING YOU THESE THINGS? IF *LUCAS* KNEW...
MAYBE YOU'VE REALIZED THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTIFIED HE *POLICE* FROM THE BEGINNING.
BUT... I WAS SCARED. *LUCAS FRIGHTENS ME.* SOMETIMES HE SEEMS SWEET, LIKE IN THE PAST, BUT WHEN I LOOK INTO HIS EYES I ONLY SE REPRESSED ANGER ABOUT TO EXPLODE.
DON'T WORRY. THIS HAS TO END... AND IT *ENDS TODAY!*


TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW AND I PROMISE THAT LUCAS WON'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU. FIRST I NEED TO KNOW *WHERE* TO FIND THE PERSON YOU DELIVERED THE CHIP TO.

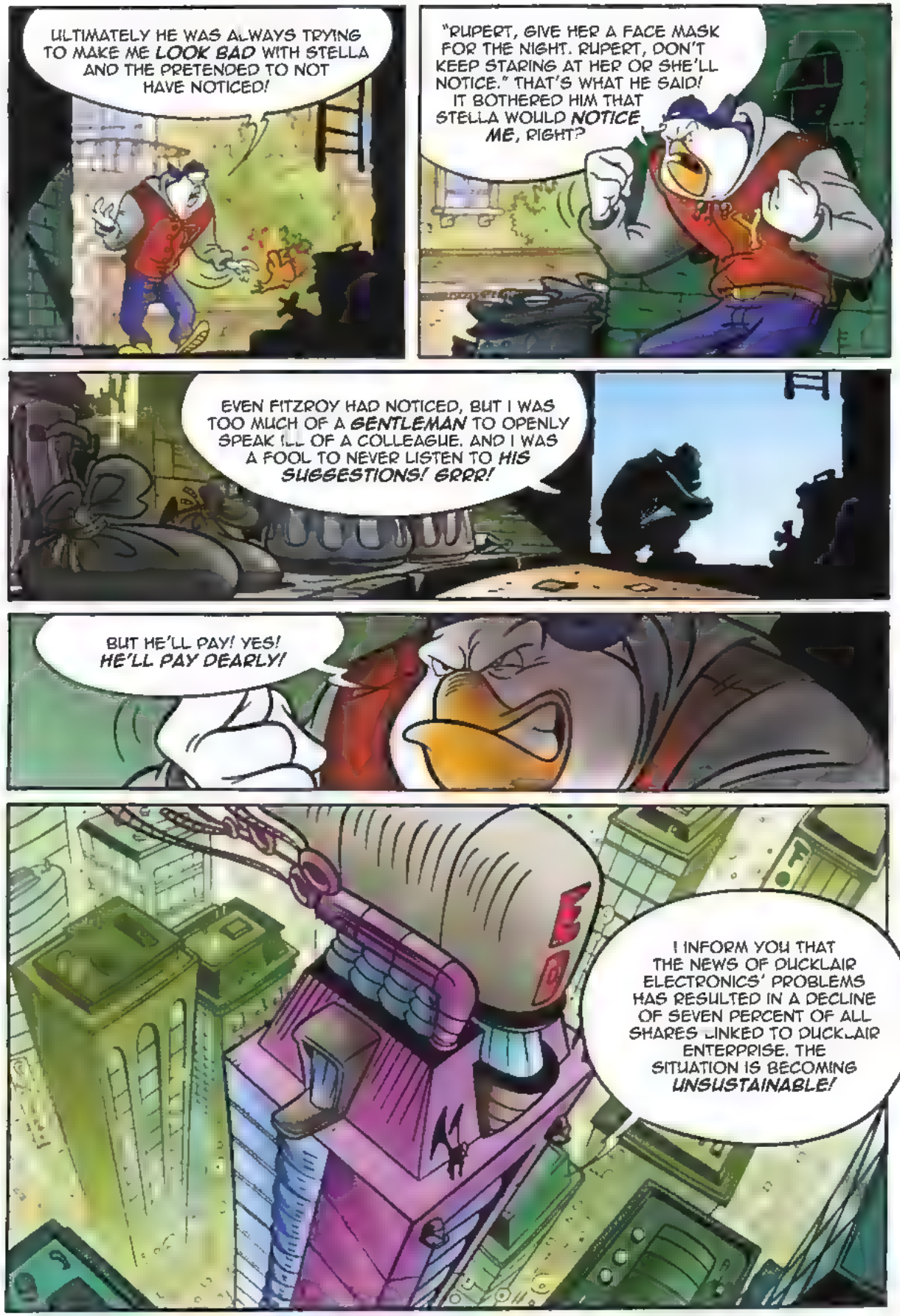

I'M SURE STELLA WON'T BELIEVE HER EYES WHEN SHE SEES ME COMING. AN HOUR AND A HALF TO GET TO HERE. AFTER SUCH AN AFFECTIONATE GESTURE, SHE'LL HAVE EYES *ONLY FOR ME.*

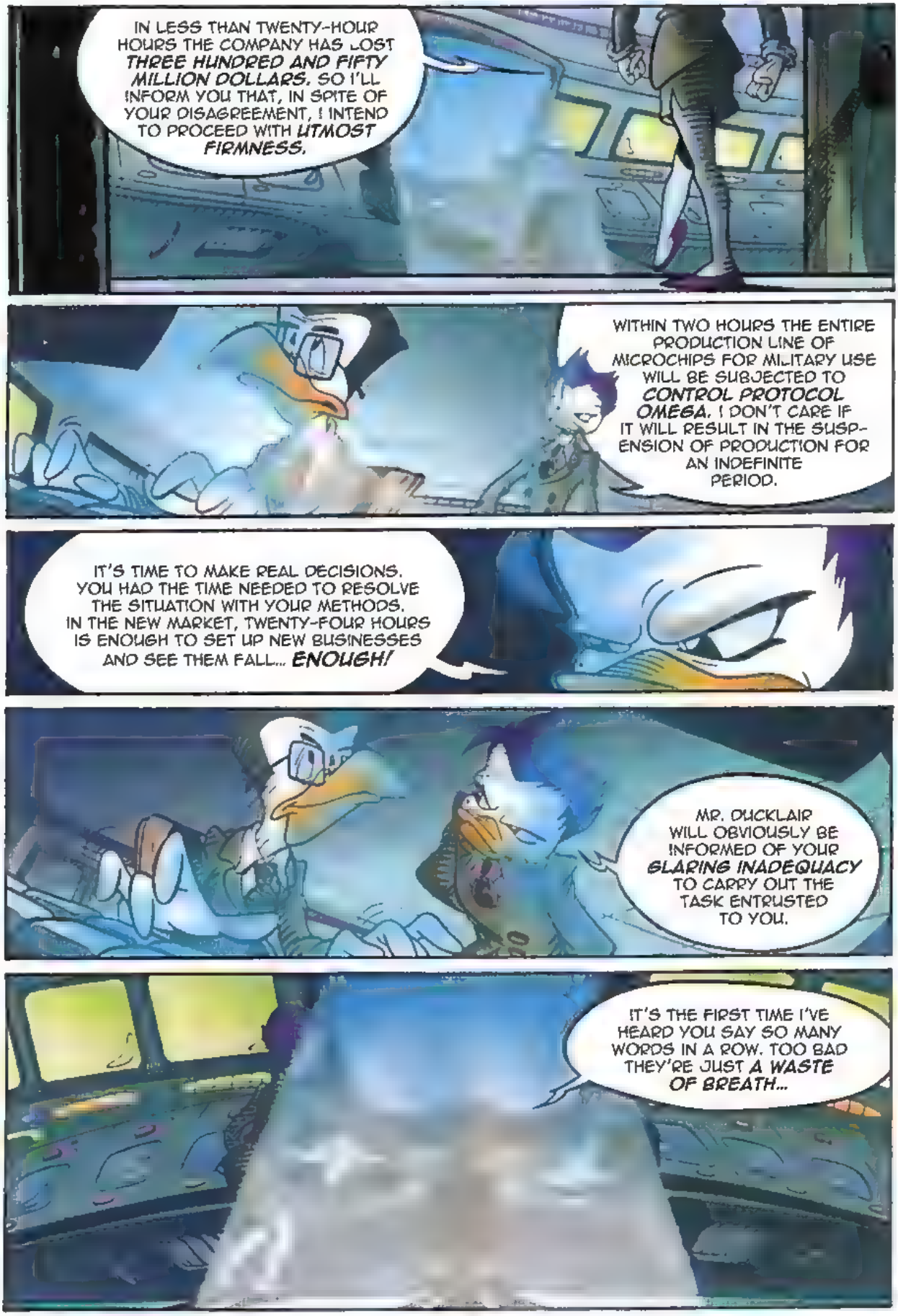

HMM... I HOPE SHE APPRECIATES THE CHOCOLATES. MAYBE THEY'RE NOT SUITABLE FOR A *SICK PERSON.* DONALD PROBABLY WOULD HAVE PROMPTED ME TO SHOW UP WITH *HERBAL TEA,* BUT THAT DUCK HAS SUCH STRANGE IDEAS WHEN IT COMES TO COURTSHIP...

OH!

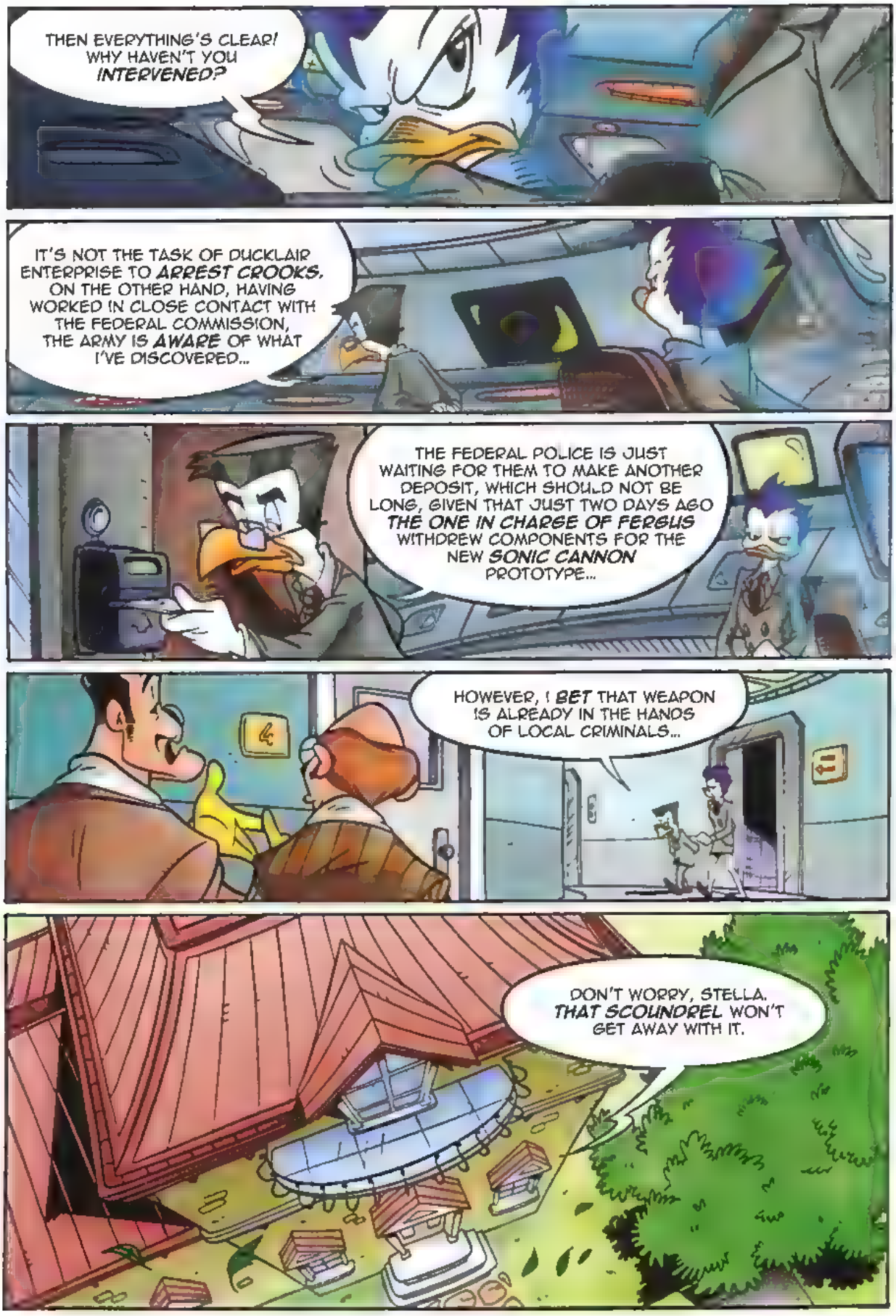
D-DONALD?

THEN WE AGREE? HEAD STRAIGHT TO DUCKMALL AND ASK A COLLEAGUE TO ACCOMMODATE YOU FOR A FEW DAYS. SAY THAT A BROKEN PIPELINE FLOODED THE HOUSE AND THE PLUMBER DOESN'T HAVE TIME UNTIL NEXT WEEK.
ALRIGHT. I'LL ASK TEMPEST SALE. SHE'S A SECURITY GUARD. WHEN WE HAD BEEN TAKEN HOSTAGE AT DUCKMALL, SHE SHOWED HOW SMART SHE WAS.
I DON'T THINK TEMPEST LIKES GUESTS, BUT I TRUST HER.
IT'S NOT RIGHT! DONALD CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! WE WERE FRIENDS! HE SAID I COULD TRUST HIM!


ULTIMATELY HE WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO MAKE ME *LOOK BAD* WITH STELLA AND THE PRETENDED TO NOT HAVE NOTICED!
"RUPERT, GIVE HER A FACE MASK FOR THE NIGHT. RUPERT, DON'T KEEP STARING AT HER OR SHE'LL NOTICE." THAT'S WHAT HE SAID! IT BOTHERED HIM THAT STELLA WOULD *NOTICE ME*, RIGHT?
EVEN FITZROY HAD NOTICED, BUT I WAS TOO MUCH OF A *GENTLEMAN* TO OPENLY SPEAK ILL OF A COLLEAGUE. AND I WAS A FOOL TO NEVER LISTEN TO *HIS SUGGESTIONS! GRRR!*
BUT HE'LL PAY! YES! *HE'LL PAY DEARLY!*
I INFORM YOU THAT THE NEWS OF DUCKLAIR ELECTRONICS' PROBLEMS HAS RESULTED IN A DECLINE OF SEVEN PERCENT OF ALL SHARES LINKED TO DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISE. THE SITUATION IS BECOMING *UNSUSTAINABLE!*


IN LESS THAN TWENTY-HOUR HOURS THE COMPANY HAS LOST THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS. SO I'LL INFORM YOU THAT, IN SPITE OF YOUR DISAGREEMENT, I INTEND TO PROCEED WITH UTMOST FIRMNESS.
WITHIN TWO HOURS THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION LINE OF MICROCHIPS FOR MILITARY USE WILL BE SUBJECTED TO CONTROL PROTOCOL OMEGA. I DON'T CARE IF IT WILL RESULT IN THE SUSPENSION OF PRODUCTION FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.
IT'S TIME TO MAKE REAL DECISIONS. YOU HAD THE TIME NEEDED TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION WITH YOUR METHODS. IN THE NEW MARKET, TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IS ENOUGH TO SET UP NEW BUSINESSES AND SEE THEM FALL... ENOUGH!
MR. DUCKLAIR WILL OBVIOUSLY BE INFORMED OF YOUR GLARING INADEQUACY TO CARRY OUT THE TASK ENTRUSTED TO YOU.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD YOU SAY SO MANY WORDS IN A ROW. TOO BAD THEY'RE JUST A WASTE OF BREATH...

MY METHODS... INADEQUATE, ALTHOUGH METICULOUS, COMBINED WITH THE SCRUPULOUS KNOWLEDGE OF OUR DATABASE HAS ALLOWED ME TO DO A CROSS-CHECK ON THE SHIPMENTS OF MATERIALS TO ALL OUR DISTRIBUTORS AND SUPPLIERS...
IT TURNED OUT THAT FERGUS INC., ONE OF THREE COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE INCRIMINATED CHIPS TO MILITARY BASES, HAS REQUESTED SEVERAL TIMES TO LOAD THE MATERIAL THE DAY BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DELIVERY WITH THE EXCUSE OF ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS WITH TRUCK DRIVERS..
SO WHAT?
WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE FEDERAL COMMISSION I GOT ACCESS TO FERGUS' DATA BANKS. OBSERVE!
IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS THE OWNER HAS DEPOSITED LARGE SUMS OF MONEY IN CASH...
AND THE DATES OF THE DEPOSITS COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF THE DELIVERIES OF DEFECTIVE MICROCHIPS...


THEN EVERYTHING'S CLEAR! WHY HAVEN'T YOU *INTERVENED?*
IT'S NOT THE TASK OF DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISE TO *ARREST CROOKS.* ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVING WORKED IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE FEDERAL COMMISSION, THE ARMY IS *AWARE* OF WHAT I'VE DISCOVERED...
THE FEDERAL POLICE IS JUST WAITING FOR THEM TO MAKE ANOTHER DEPOSIT, WHICH SHOULD NOT BE LONG, GIVEN THAT JUST TWO DAYS AGO *THE ONE IN CHARGE OF FERGUS* WITHDREW COMPONENTS FOR THE NEW *SONIC CANNON* PROTOTYPE...
HOWEVER, I *BET* THAT WEAPON IS ALREADY IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL CRIMINALS...
DON'T WORRY, STELLA. *THAT SCOUNDREL* WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT.

NOW I HAVE TO GO!
GRUNT! I'VE DECIDED. THIS HAS TO END! I'M TIRED OF BEING RIDICULED!
I'LL CONFRONT STELLA AND DEMAND AN EXPLANATION. TOMORROW I'LL ALSO TAKE CARE OF DONALD.
ULP! DUCK AVENGER?!
RUPERT?
WOOSH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WELL, I... ACTUALLY...
B-BUT THAT WAS THE DUCK AVENGER, RIGHT? I THOUGHT IT WAS DONALD AND...

WHAT ABOUT DONALD? BUT YOU, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WELL, YOU WEREN'T AT WORK TODAY... I THOUGHT YOU WERE SICK AND I WAS WORRIED...
BUT, IF YOU WERE TALKING WITH THE AVENGER... HAS SOMETHING SERIOUS HAPPENED TO YOU?
NOT YET! BUT IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU, IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF THE WAY!
W-WHO ARE YOU?
LUCAS THOUGHT HE WAS VERY CLEVER TO HIDE IN YOUR HOME, BUT WE RATS HAVE EYES EVERYWHERE.
HE WANTS TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GANGS? GOOD! WE'LL EXCHANGE THE CANNON CHIP FOR HIS GIRLFRIEND!
GIRLFRIEND?

ENOUGH! I'M TIRED OF ALWAYS BEING KEPT IN THE DARK OF EVERYTHING! FIRST I BELIEVED THAT DONALD WAS WOOING STELLA, WHEN IT WAS THE DUCK AVENGER!
NOW A BOYFRIEND COMES OUT OF NOWHERE WHO NOBODY HAS EVER SPOKEN OF... HANDS OFF, YOU!
THUD
YOU THINK THAT, JUST BECAUSE I'M SHY, I CAN'T ASSERT MYSELF? STAY STILL!
THUD
STELLA IS THE GIRL OF MY DREAMS! AND, EVEN IF SHE ALREADY HAS A BOYFRIEND, NO ONE MAY DARE THREATEN HER!
THUD
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
HE'S WORSE THAN A RAGING BISON!
AND DON'T LET ME SEE YOU AGAIN!

THANK YOU, RUPERT. YOU SAVED ME.
WELL... NEVER MAKE A SHY GUY LOSE HIS PATIENCE...
NOW, HOWEVER...
WAIT. COME IN. YOU DESERVE AN EXPLANATION.
CLAK
I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION!
IT'S YOU WHO'LL HAVE TO PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ON YOUR ACTIVITIES IN FRONT OF THE FEDERAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.
FERGUS INC.
TAKE HIM AWAY!
POL

I BELIEVE THE MATERIAL FOUND IN THE STORAGE CONSTITUTES AS *SUFFICIENT PROOF*, COLONEL.
UNDOUBTEDLY. MR. FERGUS WON'T BE ABLE TO EASILY EXPLAIN WHY HE KEPT *TWO CASES OF MILITARY CHIPS FABRICATED IN BELGRAVIA* ILLEGALLY APPLIED WITH THE TRADEMARK OF *DUCKLAIR ELECTRONICS.*
WELL, IT'S NOT DIFFICULT. BELGRAVIAN CHIPS ARE CHEAP BECAUSE THEY ARE OF LOW QUALITY. FERGUS SUBSTITUTED THEM WITH THOSE OF DUCKLAIR ELECTRONICS WHICH HE SOLD TO CRIMINALS *FOR THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD.*
EXCELLENT EXPLANATION. HOW MANY YEARS IN PRISON DO YOU THINK HE DESERVES?
NO PARKING
5
SCREEEK

LISTEN, LUCAS... I GET THAT THE ATTEMPT OF STEALING THE CANNON FROM THE RATS *FAILED*, BUT WE CAN ALWAYS TRY AGAIN, CAN'T WE?
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO *GET ALONG* WITH THOSE SPINELESS RATS. IT'S TRUE, WE HAVE THE CHIP AND THEY HAVE THE CANON, BUT *WORKING TOGETHER* ISN'T A *GOOD IDEA*.
LUCAS, ARE YOU LISTENING?
RICO... THE BOYS *HAVE BROUGHT THE WEAPONS?*
YES!
AND *ARE READY TO USE THEM?*
SURE!
AND SO *WE'RE NOT GOING* TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT!
SLA CLANG

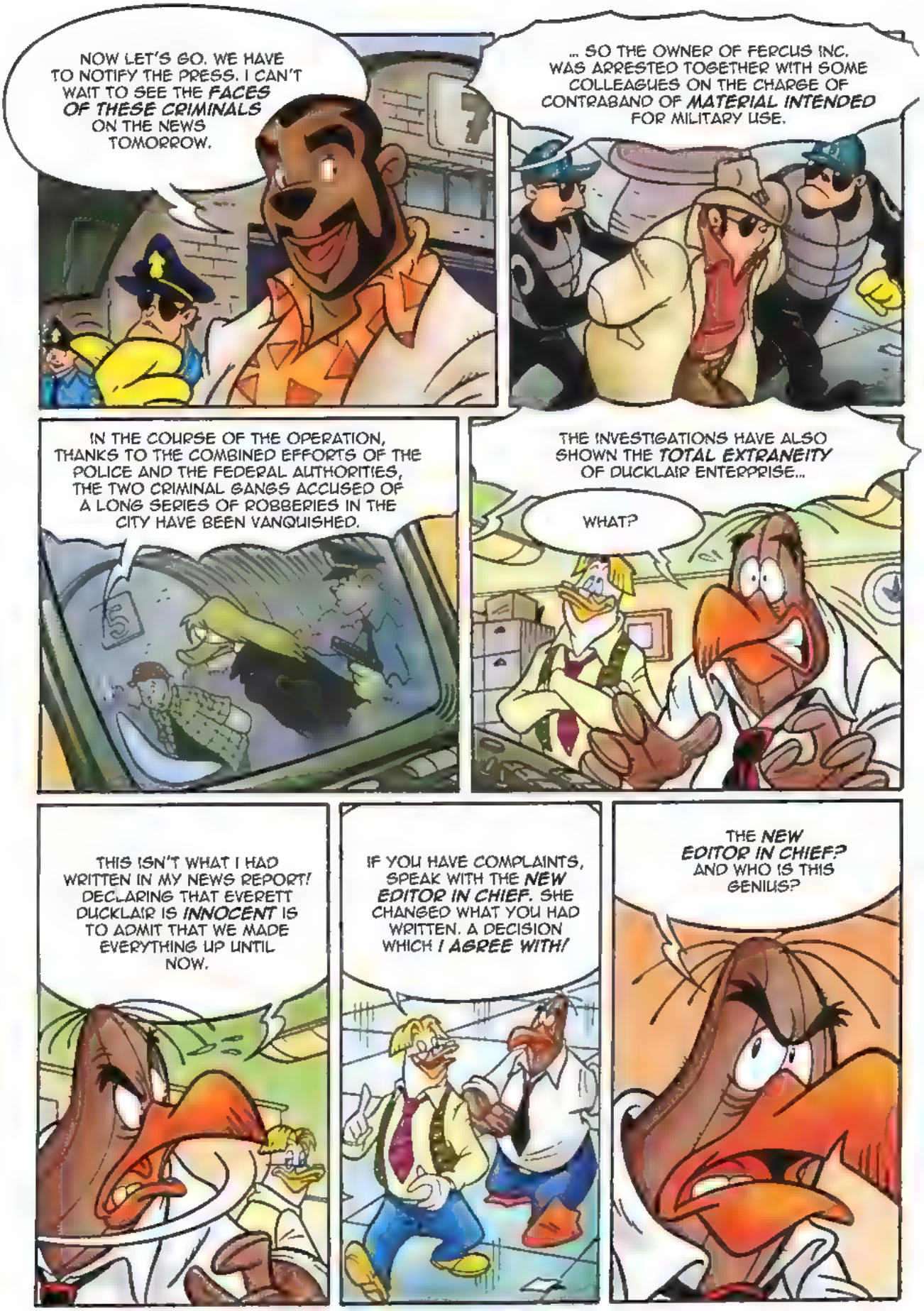
LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN, SO WE GET A LITTLE *FRESH AIR*. THE SMELL OF RAVEN BOTHERS ME.
FORGET THE PLEASANTRIES. WHERE'S THE *SONIC CANNON*?
IN SAFETY, FOR NOW! WHERE'S THE *MICROCHIP*?
IN SAFETY!
THIS TIME YOU CAN'T SAY THAT YOU'RE A *LIAR*! YOU HAVE IN FACT NOT EVEN BROUGHT IT WITH YOU, RIGHT?
TOO BAD THAT OLD MOOSE HAS A *BIG MOUTH* AND A *GREAT FEAR* OF MASKED HEROES.
WHAT?
LUCAS, WHAT KIND OF *JOKE* IS THIS?

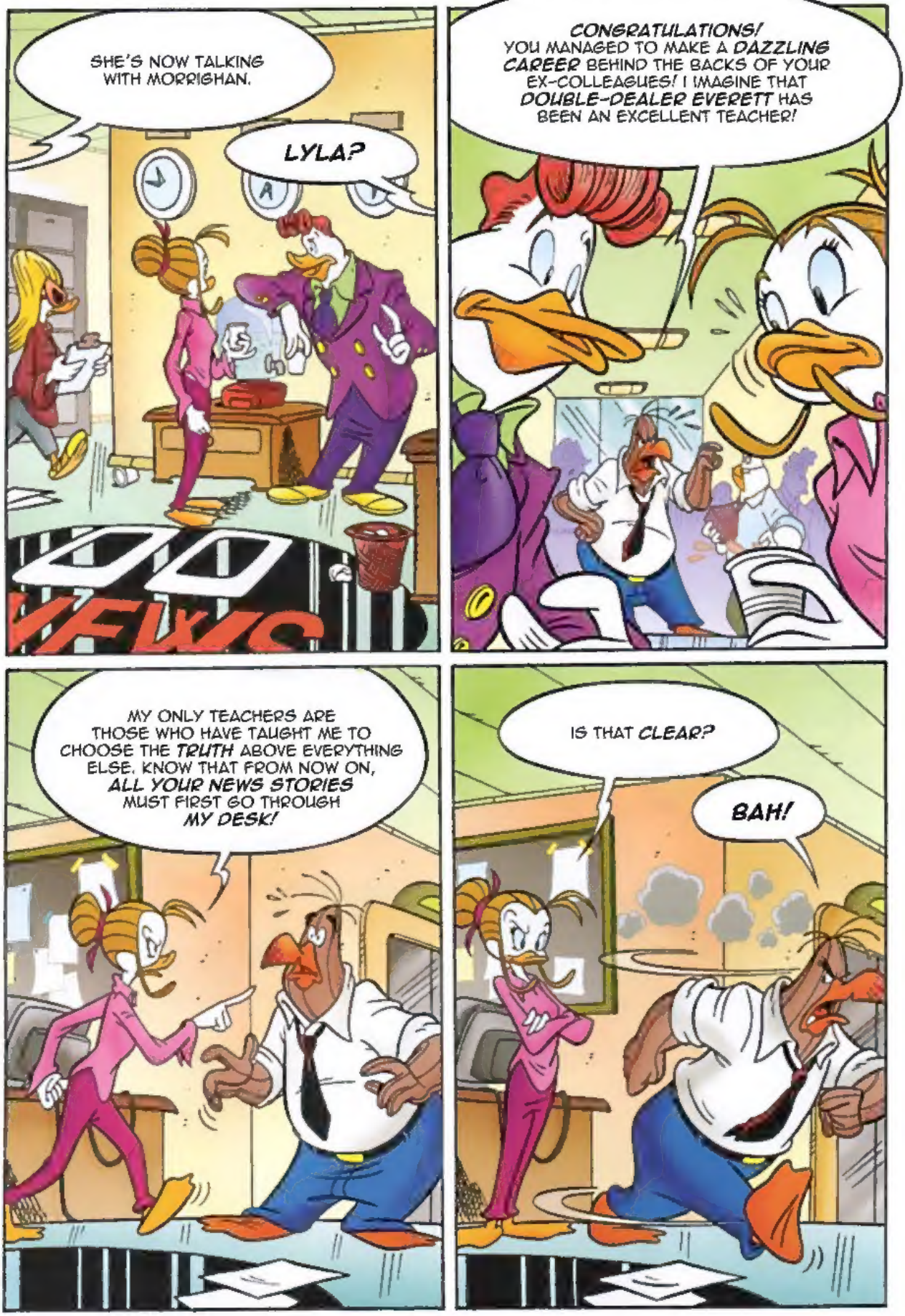
IN SHORT, MUST I EXPLAIN EVERYTHING? WELL THEN, THINGS COULD HAVE GONE LIKE THIS... YOU BROUGHT OUT THE CANNON, LUCAS *STOLE IT* AND LEFT THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU WERE FOOLED BY SUCH A SIMPLE PLAN.
BESIDES ALL, I WONDER: COULDN'T YOU HAVE BOUGHT A *WORKING CANNON* FOR EACH OF YOU?
GRRR! NO ONE MAKES A FOOL OF THE RATS. WHERE ARE *FROST AND KYLE?*
THERE THEY ARE!
BOSS, *LUCAS' GIRL GOT AWAY!*
YOU WANTED TO USE STELLA AS A *BARGAINING CHIP?* BUT IT WENT BAD FOR YOU!
KIDS, THIS IS CALLED *HONOR AMONG THIEVES!*

LETS' FINISH THIS!
TCHUD TCHUD
TCHUD
TCHUD
TCHUD
TCHUD

AVENGER! I'LL FRY YOU!
BAH! AFTER HAVING FOUGHT AGAINST SPACE INVADERS AND TEMPORAL RAIDERS, IT DISGUSTS ME TO USE THE X-TRANSFORMER AGAINST A LOWLIFE CRIMINAL...
SOCK
BUT IN YOUR CASE I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION!
THE POLICE!
GREAT TIMING.
VEEEOUEEEOUEEEO

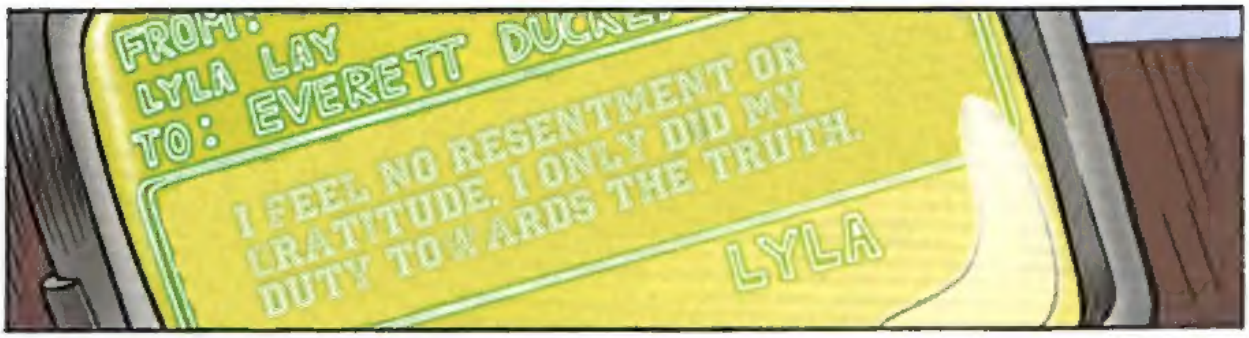
NOBODY MOVE! YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!
LOOK, SIR.
FROM YOUR ELUSIVE MASKED AVENGER
THEN... I BET THE ANONYMOUS CALL THAT LED US HERE WAS ALSO HIS.
OF COURSE, O'HARA
IN FACT, HE'S THE AVENGER THE CITY NEEDS FOR INTERVENING WHERE THE LAW ARRIVES TOO SLOWLY. BUT I CAN'T TOLERATE IT... AND I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO STOP HIM!

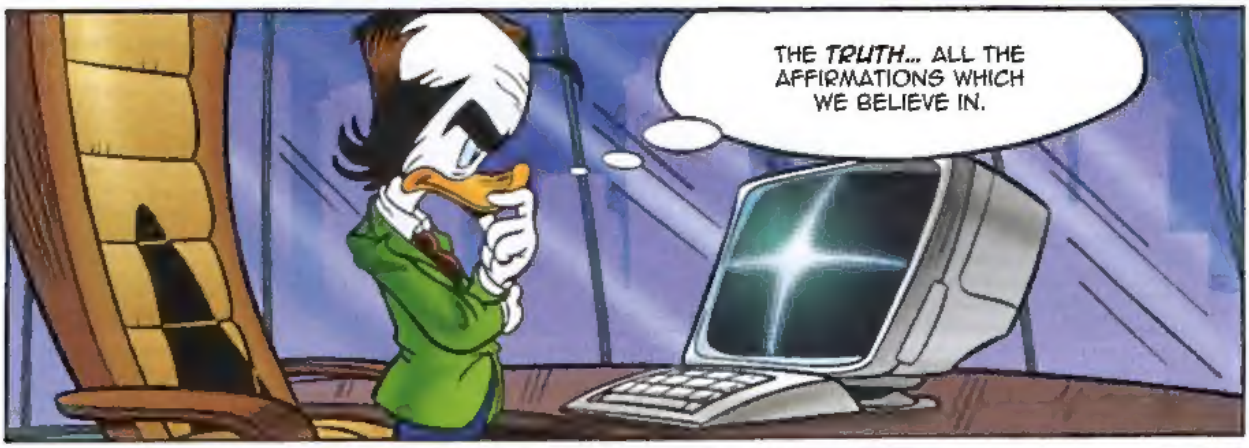

NOW LET'S GO. WE HAVE TO NOTIFY THE PRESS. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE FACES OF THESE CRIMINALS ON THE NEWS TOMORROW.
... SO THE OWNER OF FERCUS INC. WAS ARRESTED TOGETHER WITH SOME COLLEAGUES ON THE CHARGE OF CONTRABAND OF MATERIAL INTENDED FOR MILITARY USE.
IN THE COURSE OF THE OPERATION, THANKS TO THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE POLICE AND THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES, THE TWO CRIMINAL GANGS ACCUSED OF A LONG SERIES OF ROBBERIES IN THE CITY HAVE BEEN VANQUISHED.
THE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE ALSO SHOWN THE TOTAL EXTRANEITY OF DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISE...
WHAT?
THIS ISN'T WHAT I HAD WRITTEN IN MY NEWS REPORT! DECLARING THAT EVERETT DUCKLAIR IS INNOCENT IS TO ADMIT THAT WE MADE EVERYTHING UP UNTIL NOW.
IF YOU HAVE COMPLAINTS, SPEAK WITH THE NEW EDITOR IN CHIEF. SHE CHANGED WHAT YOU HAD WRITTEN. A DECISION WHICH I AGREE WITH!
THE NEW EDITOR IN CHIEF? AND WHO IS THIS GENIUS?

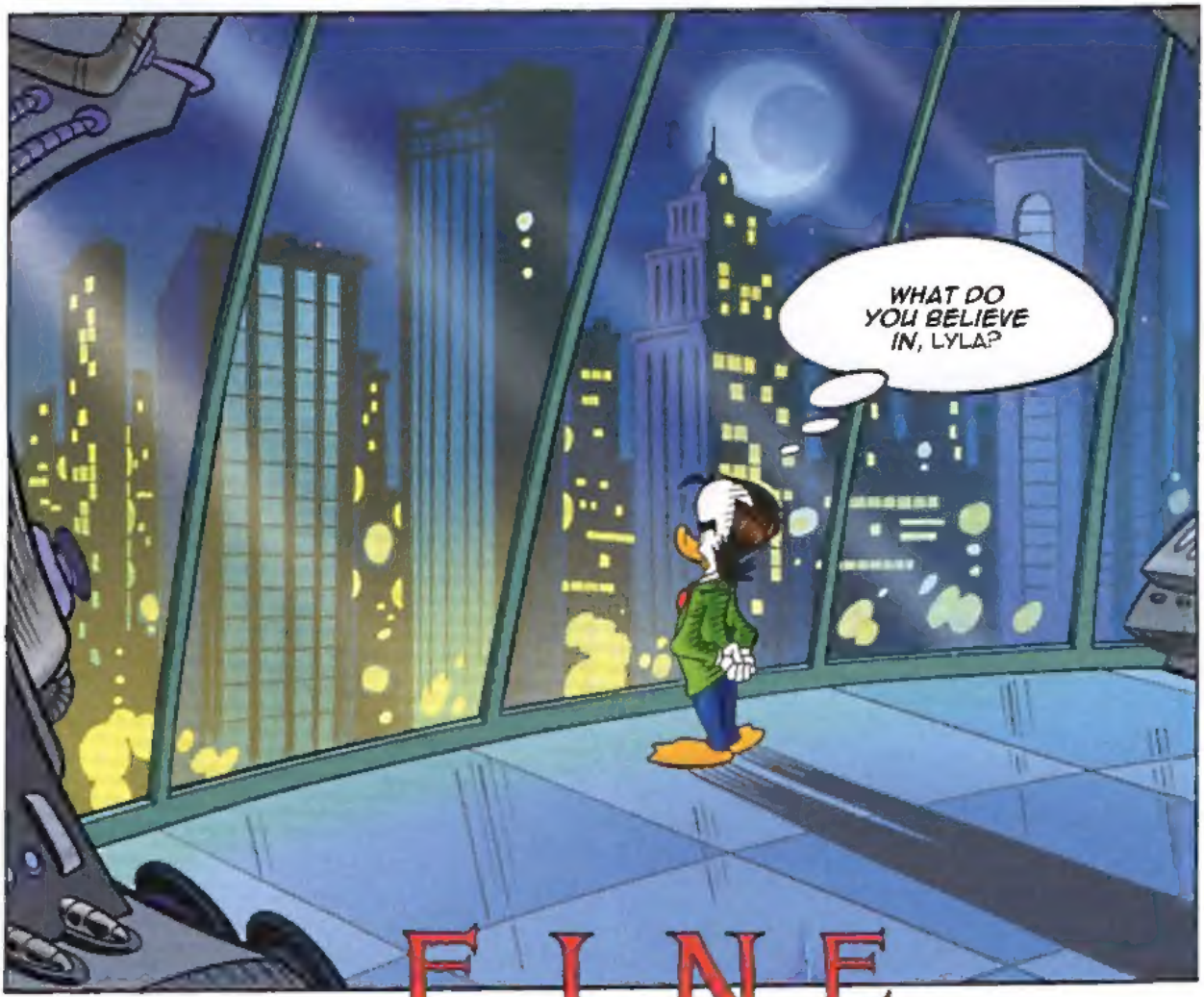

SHE'S NOW TALKING WITH MORRIGHAN.
LYLA?
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU MANAGED TO MAKE A DAZZLING CAREER BEHIND THE BACKS OF YOUR EX-COLLEAGUES! I IMAGINE THAT DOUBLE-DEALER EVERETT HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT TEACHER!
MY ONLY TEACHERS ARE THOSE WHO HAVE TAUGHT ME TO CHOOSE THE TRUTH ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE. KNOW THAT FROM NOW ON, ALL YOUR NEWS STORIES MUST FIRST GO THROUGH MY DESK!
IS THAT CLEAR?
BAH!

SNIFF!
BARNEY
SPORT
SALDI
3x2
POOR STELLA! THIS MATTER WITH LUCAS WAS TRULY A BAD EXPERIENCE.

HONESTLY IT WAS ALSO THAT FOR ME TOO. TO THINK THAT, AT A CERTAIN POINT, I EVEN BELIEVED THAT *YOU*...
RUPERT, WHY DON'T YOU STOP *WASTING TIME* AND GO CONSOLE HER? SHE'LL NEED SOMEONE TO BE CLOSE TO HER.
WELL, THEN YOU COME TOO. IN THESE CASES *JUST ONE FRIEND* IS ENOUGH... BUT *TWO IS BETTER!*
DUCKMALL CENTER
TOP
POP


FROM:
LYLA LAY
TO: EVERETT DUCK
I FEEL NO RESENTMENT OR
LRATITUDE. I ONLY DID MY
DUTY TO ARDS THE TRUTH.
LYLA


THE TRUTH... ALL THE AFFIRMATIONS WHICH WE BELIEVE IN.


WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IN, LYLA?

FINE